



GOOSE CREEK

STATE PARK

beaufort county, n.c.

GOOSE CREEK STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

prepared by:

The State of North Carolina
Department of Natural and Economic Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation
The Master Planning Unit
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GOOSE CREEK STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

FOREWORD

The Master Plan for Goose Creek State Park is a guide for the short and long term development and management of park resources. The planning is aimed at achieving a variety and balance of recreational and interpretive elements with respect to parameters which establish an optimum in carrying capacity and park protection. The unity of the physical plan at each phase of development insures that the park will be an efficiently operating whole during and after its implementation. Additionally, it remains a flexible plan inasmuch as development need not reach its final phase if follow-up analysis indicates expansion is undesirable. Development of the master plan is contingent upon the availability of funding and the establishment of biennial statewide priorities.

This master plan study has been developed in depth and reflects the high priority given to it as part of the planning program. In keeping with the basis of this plan, decisions which affect the welfare of Goose Creek State Park must reflect the principles and spirit of the State Park system.



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CULTURAL RESOURCES

LOCATION, POPULATION, AND ACCESS

A broad, slow-moving tributary of the Pamlico River, Little Goose Creek is located in the eastern part of the State in Beaufort County. Lying nearly halfway between Washington and the historic town of Bath, Goose Creek State Park is characterized by a diversity of coastal plain or lowland habitat - in an essentially rural setting.

Within a fifty mile radius, or one hour's drive from the park, there are slightly fewer than 400,000 people residing, or about 7% of the statewide population, according to 1970 census data. Beaufort County is one of the least populated counties in the State, having a density of less than fifty people per square mile, and population of nearly 36,000.

The park site is accessible by U.S. Highway 264 which runs in an east-west direction, a secondary route to the coast, eventually joining U.S. Highway 64 west of Croatan Sound. U.S. 17, a north-south highway, serves as a secondary collector distributing traffic to Highway 264 at Washington. Where Highway 264 passes by the site, its traffic volume is currently about 3,000 cars per day. Park traffic turns at the intersection of U.S. 264 and secondary road 1334 and enters the site about two miles to the south.

HISTORY

Though documented historical information for the park site is rather sparse, it is known that prior to settlement by the white man the area was occupied by the Tuscarora Indians. An Indian village was located between Goose Creek and the town of Bath.

It is likely that many artifacts are present in the area.

On May 21, 1701, Captain Thomas Blount, exploring the Pamlico region, landed near Ragged Point on the present park site. Additionally, the famous explorer and surveyor-general of North Carolina, John Lawson, may indeed have owned some land now in Park ownership. Records in Bath indicate that he owned large parcels of land in the vicinity of Goose Creek in the early 1700's. The town of Bath, a State Historic Site, contains abundant historic features including the homesite of the notorious pirate, Blackbeard.

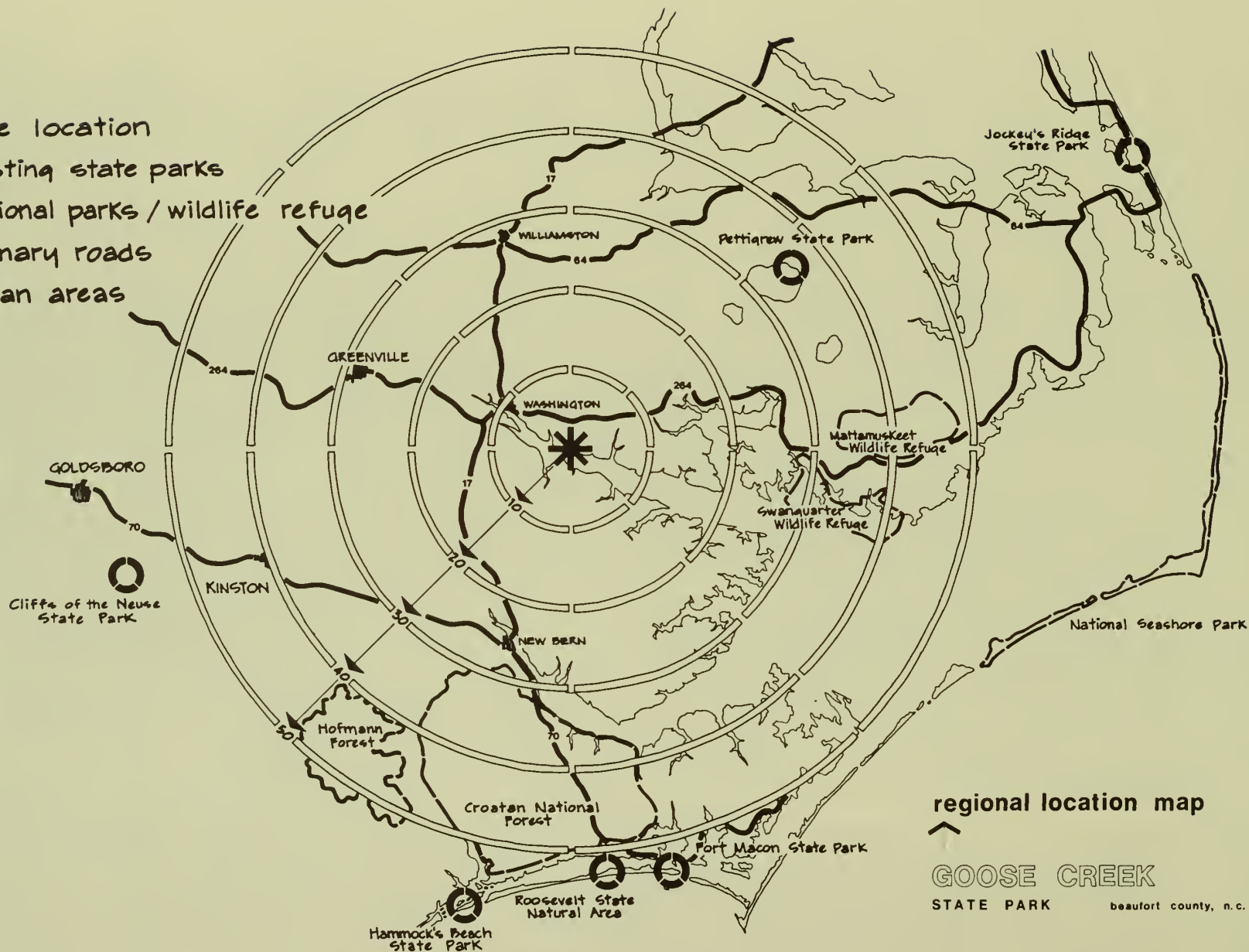
The more recent cultural past of the Goose Creek area is a history of marginal agriculture and a livelihood related to the fishing industry associated with the Pamlico River. An examination of the area exposes several old homesites and related fields which have long since been abandoned and returned to forest. Similarly, several sites along the edge of Goose Creek and the Pamlico exhibit remains of old loading docks or piers extending into the water, a reminder of a water-related industry considerably more pervasive and important to the community as a whole than it is today.

A long, raised mound can be found on the park site, evidently an old railroad bed which extended into Upper Goose Creek — a product of the logging operations during the early 1900's. Laborers of the Eureka Lumber Company are said to have camped in the vicinity for many years.

The logging operation initiated by the Eureka firm was taken over by the Weyerhaeuser Company which owned not only the

legend

- * site location
- existing state parks
- national parks / wildlife refuge
- primary roads
- urban areas



regional location map

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majority of land making up the current Park site but enormous acreages around the Goose Creek area.

At the request of interested local citizens, the Division of State Parks conducted several field trips along the Pamlico River in the Spring, 1969, investigating potential State Park sites. During June, 1970, the Goose Creek area was found to possess the qualities necessary for a North Carolina State Park. A proposal to establish a State park at Goose Creek was made and on September 11, 1970, the Board of Conservation and Development resolved to carry out a detailed site investigation. During this period, it was learned that most of the property in question belonged to the Weyerhaeuser Company. Representatives from this company approached the Division in the summer of 1971, and requested that a more comprehensive study of the Pamlico region be carried out for the purpose of investigating alternative State Park sites. Their contention was that the Goose Creek area was one of their most valued "banks" of timberland, which could be cut in wet seasons when none of the other lands would permit logging operations.

The Division then engaged in an exhaustive study of both sides of the Pamlico River over a period of several months. The result of this investigation was to strengthen the original

findings — that the Goose Creek area was of primary value as a State Park.

In May, 1972, Weyerhaeuser representatives met with the Department of Natural and Economic Resources representatives and members of the Board of Conservation and Development. At this meeting, an abbreviated or revised plan was presented by Weyerhaeuser including 1200 acres within the original proposed boundaries. On May 13, 1972, at the Conservation and Development Board meeting in Washington, N. C., this plan was approved.

As an indication of the support of the citizenry, a resolution was adopted on October 18, 1972, by the Southern Albemarle Association, recommending the establishment of Goose Creek State Park. The Association, a body representing the people of the six-county area surrounding the park site, addressed the resolution to the Governor, Robert W. Scott.

On September 25, 1974, negotiations with Weyerhaeuser were completed and Goose Creek State Park was officially established. A total of 1208.60 acres had been acquired for the park at a cost of \$1,115,000.00 — the full market price of the land having been reduced by \$50,000.00 due to the reservation of mineral rights.

REGIONAL RECREATION NEEDS

Comprehensive recreation planning for the State of North Carolina is the responsibility of the Division of Resource Planning and Evaluation, Department of Natural and Economic Resources. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, produced in 1975 and updated regularly, is an indicator of regional recreation supply and demand.

According to the SCORP data, new recreation facilities utilizing the State's Inland waters rank third among top priority needs. Due to the expansion of private industry in water-related development, use of these areas is becoming increasingly restricted.

Recreational lands and facilities are analyzed according to a classification system developed by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. BOR Class III, Natural Environment Areas, most closely approximates the type of recreation facilities provided by State Parks. They are defined as areas providing "weekend and vacation activities dependent on a natural setting such as nature study, sightseeing, hunting, and fishing, light facility development, access trails, and campsites."

There presently exist slightly greater than 500,000 acres of both public and private BOR Class III land in the coastal plain. It must be recognized that a vast majority of this land is made up of game lands managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission. The SCORP Study in 1970 indicated the need to acquire 223,000 acres of Class III land throughout the State. Additionally, of the total money to be spent between 1970 and 1974, 34% was proposed for the coastal plain region.

While the SCORP findings and definitions provided by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation are intended to establish

general guidelines for state recreation facilities, the Division of State Parks defined the purpose of its system in 1955:

TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THEIR VISITORS BY:

1. Preserving and protecting natural areas of unique or exceptional scenic value not only for the inspiration and benefit of the present generation, but also for generations to come.
2. Establishing and operating state parks that provide recreational use of natural resources and outdoor recreation in natural surroundings.
3. Portraying and interpreting plant and animal life, geology, and all other natural features and processes included in the various state parks.
4. Preserving, protecting and portraying scientific sites of statewide importance.

Within the fifty-mile radius of Goose Creek State Park, there is one other State Park and several large forests and wildlife areas. Pettigrew State Park is located northeast of Goose Creek, about thirty-five miles as the crow flies. It presently contains 769 acres, about 1,200 acres slated for future acquisition, and had a visitation of 42,402 during 1974. Pettigrew's prime attractions are the Somerset Mansion managed by the Division of Archives and History and excellent sport fishing found in Lake Phelps.

South of Goose Creek is the Croatan National Forest which contains over 100,000 acres and the Hofmann Forest, property of North Carolina State University. The Hofmann Forest administers 29,654 acres. East of Goose Creek is the Swanquarter Wildlife Refuge, located at the confluence of the Pamlico River and Sound, and the Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge which

includes all of Lake Mattamuskeet.

The need to establish a State Park in the Goose Creek area was first identified in 1963 in a report entitled, "Planning for State Parks and State Forests," in North Carolina. In this document the Coastal Plains region was noted as fourth priority among needed State Park locations. The same document recognized the shortfall in State Park acreage and recommended meeting a standard of 20 acres per 1,000 population. The national average for distribution of State Parks is 37 acres per 1,000 population. Given the total proposed acreage for Pettigrew State Park (1969 acres) and Goose Creek State Park (1882 acres), a total of 3,851 acres of State Park land is slated to serve the current population of 393,629. Such a ratio provides for 9.78 acres per 1,000 population within the fifty-mile radius of Goose Creek — substantially less than the proposed standard and severely short of the national average.

In Beaufort County there are twenty-eight recreation areas which were inventoried by the Division of Resource Planning and Evaluation, twenty-two of which are open to the public. Six of these facilities are non-profit enterprises. By far, the most popular activities provided for are boating and fishing — nearly all of the facilities having boat ramps and fishing access.

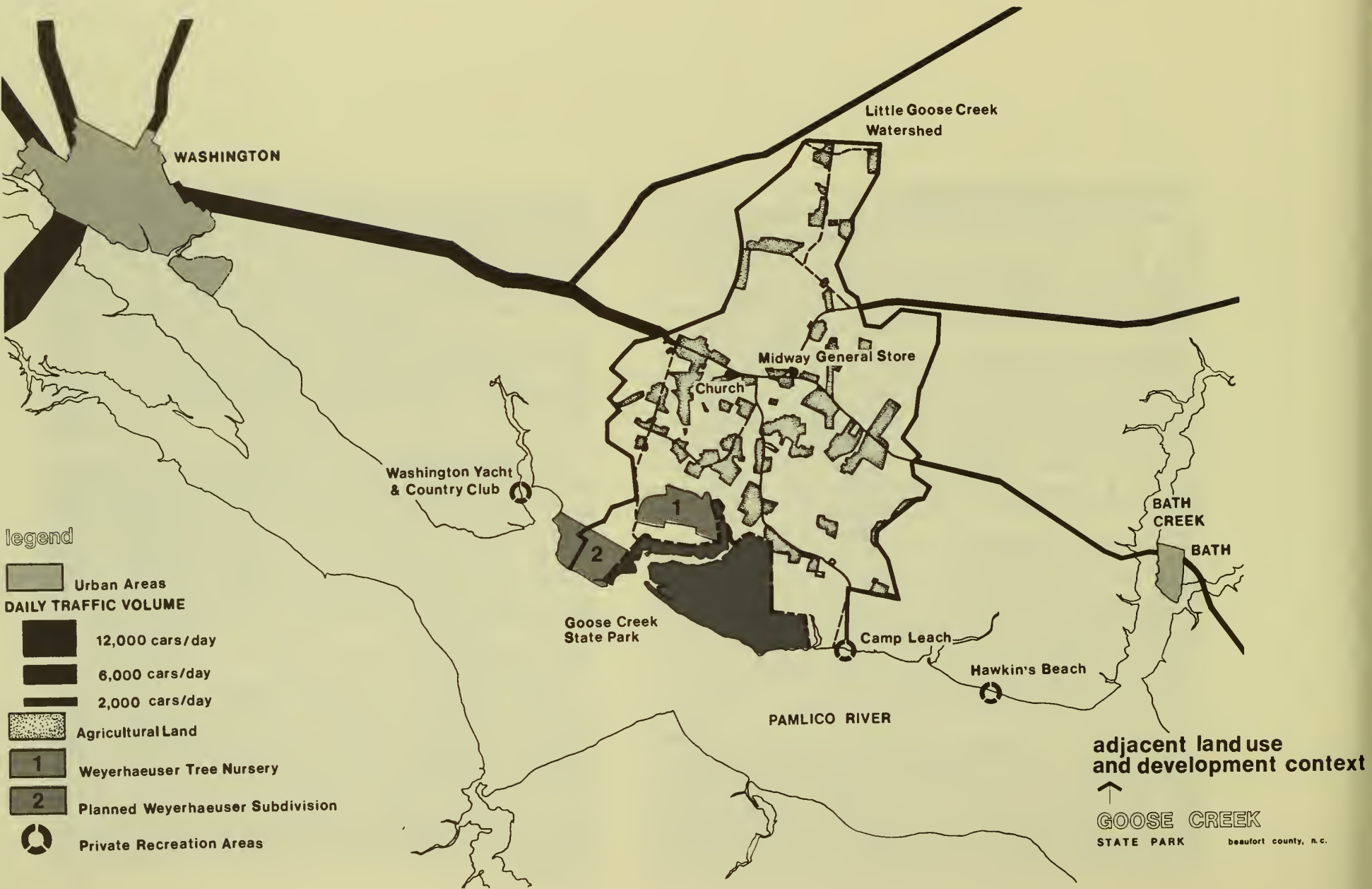
At a public meeting held in Washington, N. C. on October 27, 1975, opinions of the citizenry regarding the scope of recreation facilities to be provided in the master plan for Goose Creek were solicited. At this meeting, there was unanimous agreement that the site should be maintained in its rough and essentially wilderness condition with a special emphasis being placed on the development of a program for nature interpretation. A system of nature trails, for family use as well as birding enthusiasts, with observation points was of common interest.

Boating and fishing interests were well represented with considerable agreement in the need for the provision of an additional boat launch, temporary mooring, and fishing piers.

Also of interest at the public meeting was the provision of expanded picnicking and swimming facilities, particularly for family use. There was, however, a division in ideas for the scope of camping facilities to be provided. One group felt that only tent camping, of a rough nature and accessible only by trail, should be provided. Another group was not only interested in provided tent and trailer camping, particularly related to the Dinah's Landing boat launch, but also facilities with both water and electric hookups.

Local residents were especially interested in the possibility of incorporating limited hunting into a state park program on special multi-use basis. Based on the fact that hunting in the area has been a traditional activity, the apprehension on the part of local residents represents a fear, common among neighbors to State Parks, that hunting lands accessible to the public will be eliminated with the establishment of a park. A further investigation of this situation was stimulated at the public meeting and carried out during the detailed study of the recreation program.

The preservation of the rural character of the lands surrounding the park was also of common interest among those attending the meeting. There was agreement that county zoning or other means of protection should be investigated to control the proliferation of incompatible land uses in the area. In particular, local residents were interested in ensuring the preservation of neighborhoods near the Park, apprehensive of an excessive increase in traffic generated by new development in the park.



ADJACENT LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

The Goose Creek and Mallard Creek watersheds establish a range for studying the relationship of land uses adjacent to the Park and changing land use patterns. The watershed is an appropriate framework since it is within these boundaries that direct influences — both physical and aesthetic — can most effectively be measured.

The landscape of this region is dominated by agricultural uses and related development. Roads in the area are long, straight and dotted with dwellings. Sometimes clustered in association with a church or community store at a crossroads or, more frequently, isolated and bearing a more direct relationship with farm land, the houses are primarily two-story frame structures. Also pervasive in the area are large plantations, predominately Loblolly Pine forest established by timber companies for commercial purposes.

Due to the low and frequently boggy nature of the area, a great deal of land lies vacant, having little or no potential for either agricultural or forestry purposes, these lands have little or no economic value at present and therefore are largely ignored.

The Pamlico River has always maintained an important role in the development of the region. Although its importance as a primary means of subsistence for local residents has dropped, commercial fishing, on a larger scale, has increased. Sport fishing on the Pamlico and its tributaries remains a primary recreational activity. Numerous public and private boat launches

and fishing access areas have been established along the Pamlico. Dinah's Landing, located within the park boundary, is a popular launch which has historically been accessible to the public and essentially uncontrolled.

Increasing in its impact on the region is water-related vacation, or second-home, development. Corresponding to increased demand for leisure facilities is an increase in values for shoreline properties. The Washington Yacht and Country Club, located on Broad Creek, is an established private facility having a large residential area associated with it.

Development of this nature is beginning to occur at two scales. In several isolated locations, such as the one at Duck Creek east of the Park, small parcels have been subdivided and are promoted for second-home development. In these situations, the land owner and developer are frequently one and the same, and home sites are a quarter to one-half acre in size. At the other end of the scale, large companies who have a secondary interest in land speculation are also recognizing the potential of the Pamlico for vacation development. A subdivision plan was prepared in June, 1970, for Quadrant Division, Westminster Corporation, a Weyerhaeuser Company subsidiary, by the engineering firm of Rose and Purcell. The proposed site was a large area immediately west of the park boundary, between Goose Creek and Broad Creek on Weyerhaeuser-owned property. This subdivision plan indicates the development of 351 dwelling sites, a quarter-acre and larger in

size, and substantial recreation facilities including clubhouse, swimming pool, and marina. The plan suggests major land forming operations including extensive dredging, filling, channel development, and road building. The implications of this proposal and its potential impact on the waterways shared by the Park are great. Although the most crucial shoreline property fronting onto Goose Creek was acquired from Weyerhaeuser in the Division's original negotiations, this type of development nevertheless would have significant physical impact on Park property.

The development impact of residential subdivisions in the watershed has, to date, been minimal. The point, however, is that the demand for this type of development will no doubt increase in the future. Accordingly, the prospect is one of significant landscape change from a quiet, rural countryside — simple and attractive in character — to one which is considerably more complex and demanding in services. The suggestion is not that these changes be altogether avoided or negatively controlled, but rather that given a greater land use complexity, changes must be conscientiously incorporated into the existing landscape.

At a general level, planning measures which should be addressed at the county level include the following points:

- 1- Access control measures need to be established along U.S. Highway 264 and, related to the Park in particular, State Roads 1334 and 1331. The intent in this situation is to isolate those areas unsuitable for development for health or other environmental reasons, and to limit their development access.

- 2- Lowland areas, inland waters and shoreline need to be designated as protection areas and managed as such. Inasmuch as all waters contained within the Goose Creek/Mallard Creek watershed bear a direct relationship to the Park development, activities associated with the waterways may have a direct influence on the welfare of the Park.

- 3- Safeguards should be sought which restrict remaining large stands of mature forest from clearcutting. Development plans should be encouraged which are geared to incorporating development compatibly into these areas. Similarly, areas known to harbor important game habitat should be safeguarded.

- 4- Zoning and other regulations should be adopted which restrict development densities and establish minimum setback or buffer zones. They may also be intended to establish continuity in the architectural design or appearance of structures.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Most significant among existing cultural conditions is the impact made by Weyerhaeuser Company prior to the establishment of the Park. The present road system on the site was developed during its logging operation, the alteration of the drainage system being effected, though the extent of these changes is not fully understood. Quite obvious, however, is the forest clearcut which occurred within the past four years. Approximately half of the upland forest on the site, about 228 acres, was cut. Aside from the damage incurred by the clear-cut is a road system which affords good penetration to much of the site.

Within the interior of the park are two 19th century graveyards — both containing hand-carved head markers. One of these cemeteries is located adjacent to an old homesite nearby the present day use area. Another cemetery is located near the remaining railroad bed of the Eureka Lumber Company and, in fact, may be related to it.

Immediately adjacent to the Park's western boundary is the Weyerhaeuser Tree Nursery. The tree nursery and its related operations represent a potential feature for interpretation, adjunct to the Park's program. The Weyerhaeuser operation does not represent a threat to the park unless the related waterways are damaged in the course of its operations. Noise emanating from the Weyerhaeuser operation is tolerable, sufficiently buffered by thick vegetation along the Park's boundaries.

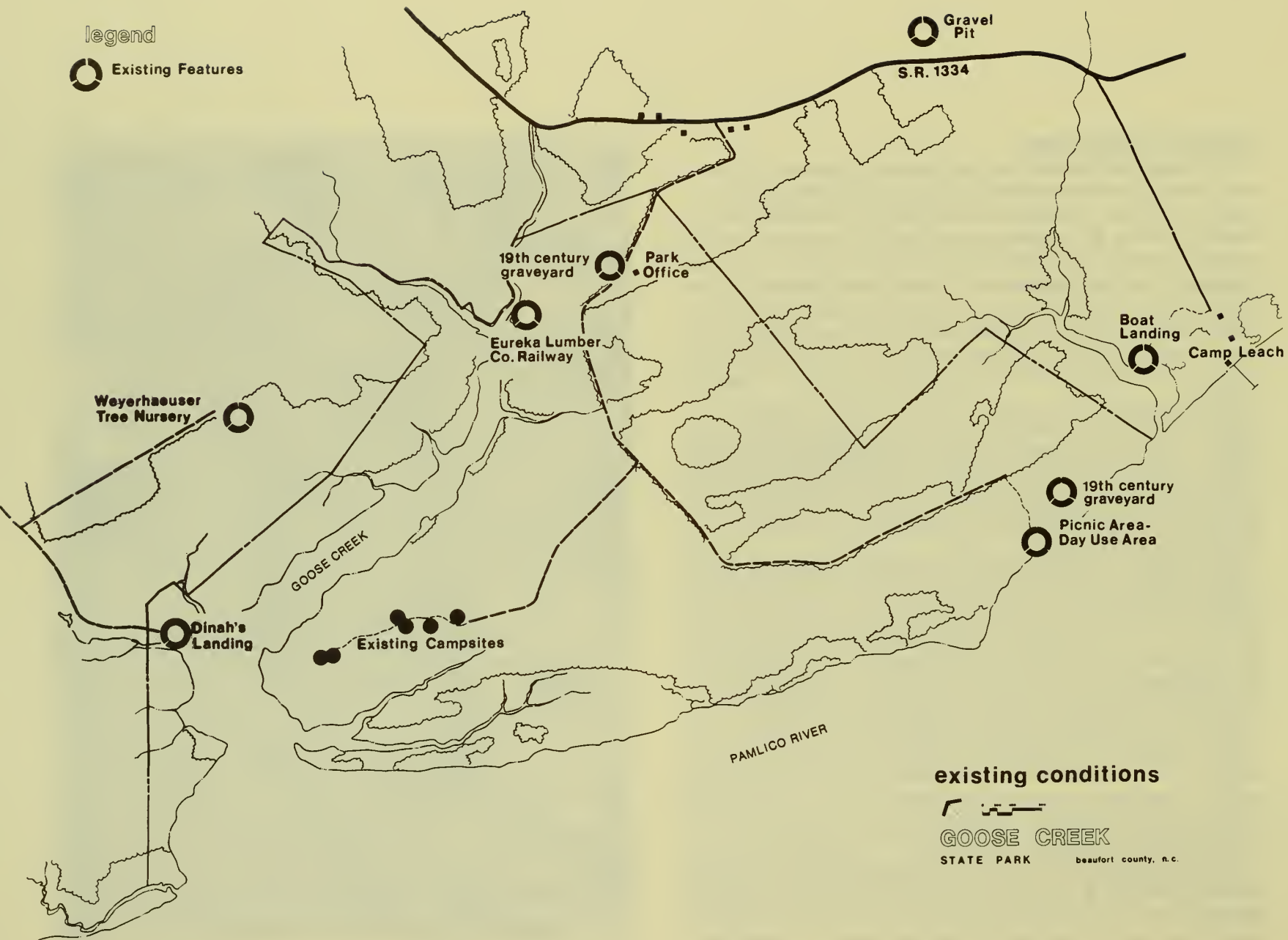
Camp Leach, an Episcopal Church camp, is the Park's neighbor on its east side along with Weyerhaeuser. The primary land owner, however, is Weyerhaeuser. The potential impact of its operation on the Mallard Creek waterway should be monitored, as with Goose Creek.

Since the Spring of 1974, a park ranger has been stationed at Goose Creek and a number of interim use facilities have been provided. A trail has been established at the end of the park road which leads to the existing day use area — a clearing on



legend

Existing Features



existing conditions



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the shore of the River having several picnic tables with grills and trash receptacles. It is a scenic spot from which many fine views of the river and shoreline can be observed. Visitors presently take advantage of this open shore for wading.

At the end of the existing spur road, campers may park and hike a short distance to one of six tent camping sites. Presently, due to the limited use that this area is receiving, campers are allowed to drive to the site to unload their equipment provided they park at the designated parking area. This area, too, is very scenic and suited to this rough style of camping. Two pit toilets are currently under construction in this area.

Dinah's Landing, on the west side of Goose Creek, has long been a public access area to both commercial and sport fishermen. Its use is currently uncontrolled, being used during peak periods between the hours of 4:00 a.m., and 11:00 p.m. On a Wednesday morning during October while the park study was being conducted, twenty-six cars and boat trailers were obser-

ved in the area that has been cleared for parking. It was a heavy use time since the speckled trout were in season. Presently, one boat launch exists, having been constructed by local residents. Boats ordinarily do not exceed about 22 feet in length. Two short piers, both in need of repair are also used at the landing, and several picnic tables have been provided. Presently no toilet facilities exist at Dinah's Landing, although water is available.

A small trailer which will serve as temporary park office has recently been located in the upper part of the site adjacent to the main park road. While there is a gate located at the present entrance controlling access into the park, a park sign has not been provided. It is felt that until additional improvements can be made in the park, it is unwise to encourage use. Additionally, as the entrance road now being used is actually a private drive, heavy traffic is undesirable until a permanent road can be established.



NATURAL RESOURCES

GEOLOGY

Beaufort County is entirely mantled by surficial sands and clays which are rarely more than 30 feet thick and in many places less than 10 feet thick. Underlying the surficial deposits are beds of blue clay, marl, shells, and impure shell limestone that constitute the Yorktown formation. This formation ranges in thickness from about 40 feet in the extreme western part of the county to as much as 200 feet in the extreme eastern part of the county.

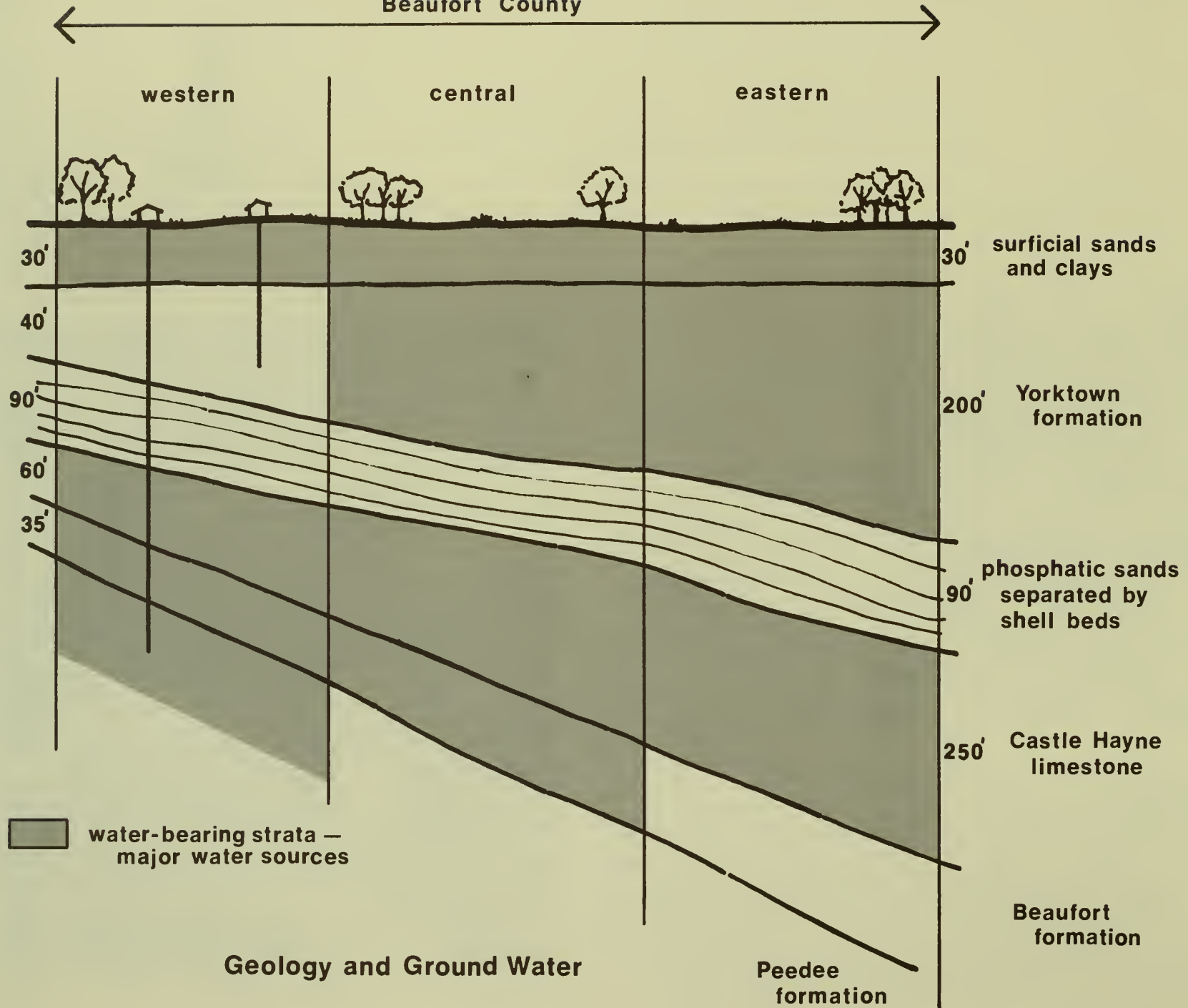
In the central and eastern parts of the county the Yorktown formation is underlain by layers of phosphatic sand that are separated by one or more hardened shell beds, which range from a few feet to more than 90 feet in thickness. Individual beds of phosphatic sand are as much as 20 feet thick.

Underlying these deposits are shell limestones and inter-layered lime containing sands of the Castle Hayne limestone formation which is about 60 feet thick near the western border of the county and perhaps as much as 250 feet thick along the eastern border. The Beaufort formation, composed of sand containing clay and various silicates and marl, underlies the Castle Hayne limestone throughout most of the county. Little data is available concerning the thickness of the Beaufort formation, although it is known that the formation thickens rapidly and is buried progressively deeper toward the east.

Underlying the Beaufort formation are glauconitic sands and clays containing mica silicates of the Pee Dee formation for which no data on total thickness in Beaufort County are available. Beneath the Pee Dee formation are older sediments that are believed to contain saline waters.



Beaufort County



Geology and Ground Water

GROUND WATER

With the exception of the supply for the town of Washington, all public and private water supplies in Beaufort County are obtained from wells. The Yorktown formation furnishes water to shallow wells that extend to a depth of 30 feet, and will yield 2 to 30 gpm. Such wells are commonplace throughout the entire county.

In the central and eastern parts of the county, drilled wells obtain water from sands and shell beds in the Yorktown formation and from shell limestones and sands in the underlying Castle Hayne limestone. These wells range in depth from 100 to 300 feet and yield as much as 300 gpm. Several wells in central Beaufort County obtain water from the Beaufort formation. However, this aquifer is seldom utilized in the eastern and central sections of the county because of the abundance of water in overlying aquifers. Water below a depth of 30-50 feet in this area is under artesian pressure and flowing wells are very common.

In western Beaufort County, water is obtained from the Castle Hayne limestone, the Beaufort formation, and less commonly from the Peedee formation. Where large quantities of water are desired, wells must be of large diameter, if tapping the Castle Hayne limestone, or must tap the Beaufort and Peedee formations. Yields of several hundred gallons per minute may be expected from deep wells in this area.

The chemical quality of ground water in Beaufort County is not uniform. Water from the surficial sands contains objectionable iron and is generally corrosive. Water from the shell beds and impure limestone layers of the Yorktown formation is moderately hard. Water from the shell limestone layers and calcareous sand layers of the Castle Hayne limestone is moderately hard to very hard and may contain objectionable amount of hydrogen sulfide, particularly in the eastern sections of the county. Most of the water from the Beaufort and

Peedee formations is soft, but may be hard if the water is emanating from calcareous strata.

Large supplies of ground water are available throughout the county from all aquifers, although no information is available concerning exact amounts. However, current and previous measurements of ground-water levels suggest that, in most places, only a very small part of the available ground-water supply is being utilized.





SURFACE WATER

Surface water includes all streams, creeks, and rivers, as well as all lakes and ponds, both man-made and natural. The surface water around Goose Creek State Park is dominated by the Pamlico River, which forms the entire southern boundary of the park. The other major surface water features in direct relationship to the park are Little Goose Creek and Mallard Creek, which are at the western and eastern ends of the site, respectively. A large percentage of the land is low, wet, and is covered by standing water much of the year.

The Pamlico River and west of its tributaries have been studied and water quality classifications have been shown; the "S" prefix denotes tidal salt water. The "SB" classification is water that is suitable for all uses up to and including bathing, while the "C" and "SC" classes are suitable for the same uses up to but not including bathing. Other uses which are unsuitable for these classifications include drinking, cooking, food processing, and shell fishing.

Generally, the Pamlico River water at the Park is suitable for all recreational uses, including bathing, fishing, and boating. The waters of Little Goose Creek, according to the classification system, are suitable for all the same recreational uses, but do not include bathing. The Little Goose Creek watershed covers just under 12,000 acres, and the lowest water quality classification in the entire watershed is "C."

Overall, the water quality in the Goose Creek State Park vicinity is fairly good allowing a majority of the desired uses. However, every effort should be made to upgrade the existing water quality as much as possible, not allowing any uses within the watershed which will degrade the water quality below that now existing, and requiring any new water users to replace used water at least of as high quality as the water used.

CLIMATE

Goose Creek State Park is in the middle of the Coastal Plain region of North Carolina, and the most representative weather information available for the immediate vicinity is from the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau at Greenville. Since Greenville is less than thirty miles from the State Park site, the climatic information for the two will be similar.

During an average winter, the temperature drops to 15 or 20 degrees two or three times, only rarely going lower. The coldest weather is usually experienced in January, with December and February being almost as cold. The summers, on the other hand, are usually quite warm, but extremely hot weather is rare. The highest temperatures are generally recorded in July, with August and June being very warm. The average annual mean temperature for the area is 61.8°F.

The amount of yearly precipitation is favorable, particularly during the growing season, and averages out at 48.05". The heaviest rainfall occurs between June and September, and is normally the result of thunderstorms. The lightest rainfall is usually during the month of October. Most of the winter precipitation is rainfall, normally caused by moving low-pressure storms, but snow is not an unusual occurrence. Over an entire winter, only 4 or 5 inches of snow will fall, with a snow of more than one inch falling, on an average, only once each winter.

The prevailing winds are from the northeast during the autumn months, and from the southwest the rest of the year. The average wind speed near the surface of the earth is 8 or 9 miles per hour. The relative humidity averages around 72 percent, but is highest during the late summer and lowest in late winter and early spring.

legend

- Conetoe
- Tarboro and Pactolus
- Rutlege
- Johnston and Capers



SOILS

Common to the Atlantic coastal plain and primarily of marine origin, the soils found in the Goose Creek area have been classified into six series identified by the Soil Conservation Service. The Conetoe, Tarboro, Pactolus, and Rutledge types differ slightly in composition, all having loamy sand surface layers at varying depths. Their particular limitations are defined primarily by their specific setting and related drainage. Conetoe, Tarboro, and Pactolus, for example, are all classified as upland soils which are fairly deep and have moderately rapid to rapid permeability. Rutledge, however, is most commonly found in shallow depressions, sometimes called bays or sinks, very poorly drained.

The Johnston soils are found in the floodplains along streams or in depressions and is composed of a mucky loam surface and an undefined mixed textured subsoil. As one would expect, the Johnston soils are characterized by slow water runoff, and very poor drainage.

The most pervasive lowland soil type at Goose Creek is the Capers, located on the broad level tidal flats, or marshlands, and along the lower reaches of larger streams flowing into the tidal flats. The surface layer of Capers soils is usually clay loam, but in some places the surface material may be muck or peat. The water table ranges from twelve inches above the surface during spring tides to twelve inches below the surface. Capers soils are subject to frequent flooding and wetness over long duration.

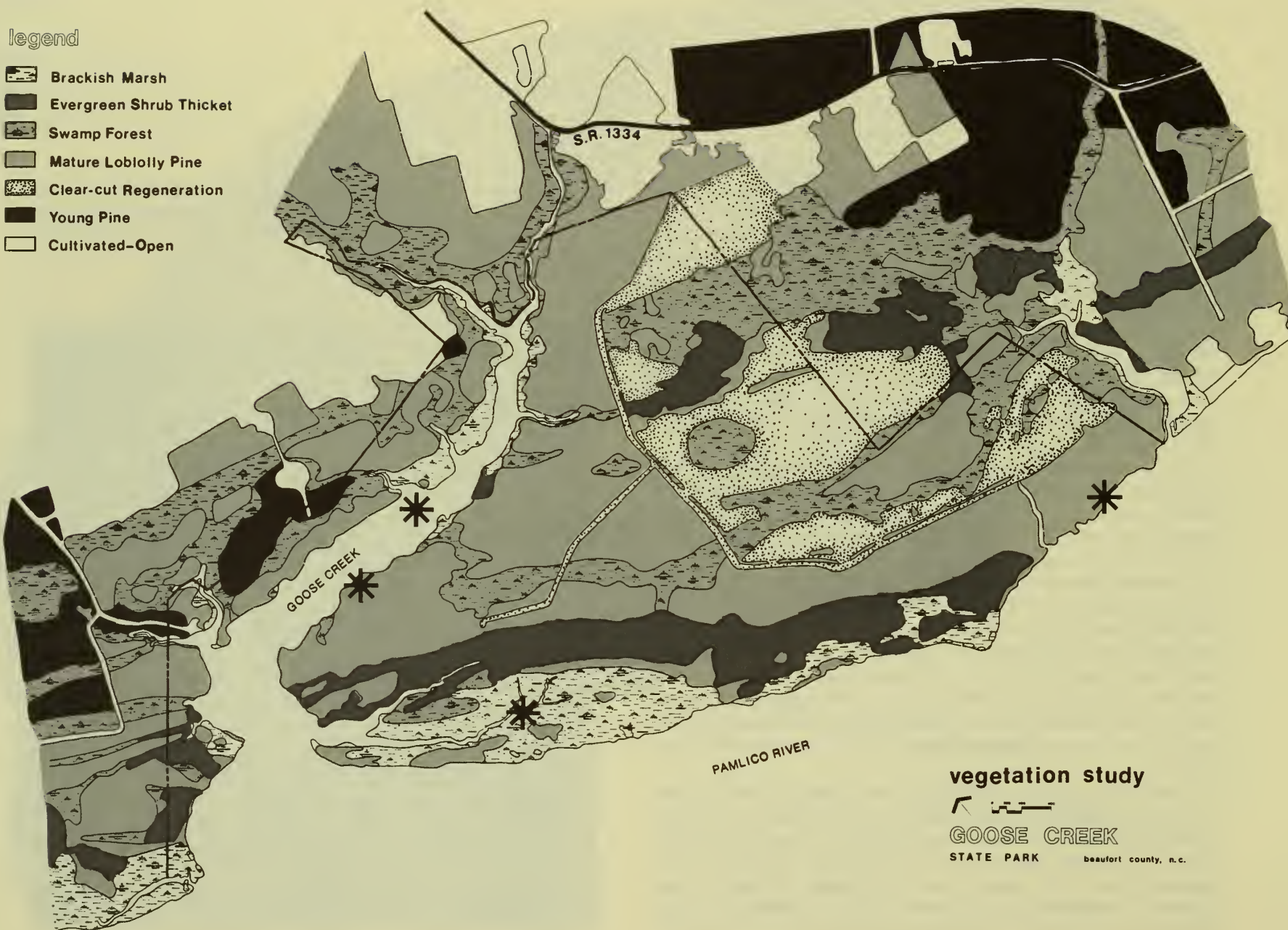
The ability of a soil to absorb different types of development is based primarily on its texture and drainage. Its setting broadly differentiates these characteristics. The upland soils (Conetoe, Tarboro, and Pactolus) are all better suited for development than the lowland soil (Rutledge, Johnston, and Capers). A seasonably high water table or, otherwise, a susceptibility to flooding is the primary characteristic making this

differentiation. More specifically, however the soils' matrix is an indicator of a soil type's suitability for containing buildings and septic systems, roads, camp sites and picnic areas. This matrix may be found in Appendix A.



legend

-  Brackish Marsh
-  Evergreen Shrub Thicket
-  Swamp Forest
-  Mature Loblolly Pine
-  Clear-cut Regeneration
-  Young Pine
-  Cultivated-Open



vegetation study



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VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND ASSOCIATED WILDLIFE

Brackish Marshlands

These marshes occupy many of the low flat areas adjacent to the creeks and the Pamlico River. Trees are very scarce in brackish marshes, because the ground is waterlogged by slightly salty water most of the time. Many dead trees may be seen scattered over the marsh, serving as roosting places for everything from tree swallows to ospreys. Although no osprey nests were found inside the existing park boundaries, several were located nearby.

Among the woody plants most successful in this habitat are such evergreen shrubs as wax myrtle, red bay, and groundsel-tree, and such small trees as loblolly-bay, red cedar, and bald cypress. Most of the dominant species of this community are not trees or shrubs, but large grasses or relatives of the grasses. Probably the most characteristic plant of the brackish marshes in the area is wild rice, a plant reaching 8 feet in height and bearing large edible grains that are among the favorite foods of waterfowl and many other birds. Large solid stands of this grass occupy the wetter areas of the marsh.

Saw-Grass is highly characteristic of the slightly drier marsh areas, as are other tall sedges. Cattails are not too common, probably due to occasional heavy influxes of salt water in the area during storms. The narrow-leaved cattail seems to be the most common species present.

Many attractive wildflowers, some of them found only in this specific habitat, fringe the waterways. In the early morning hours the pink blossoms of the seashore mallow are visible, but by midmorning the blossoms are all closed. Other late summer flowers of a very showy nature include the rose mallow, a large purple species of morning glory, climbing hempweed, cardinal flower, and, in fairly fresh water, swamp sneezeweed and joe-pye-weed.

Pickerelweed grows in fairly deep water, along with many other aquatic plants including hornwort and parrot-feather.

Black needlerush is common on the exposed points along the waterways.

These marshes, which are one of the most scenic aspects of the Goose Creek area, are also a source of food and shelter for many interesting types of wildlife, including many species of herons and waterfowl. Although most of the latter are absent during the summer months, large numbers of wood ducks frequent the area year round. Red-winged blackbirds, white-eyed vireos, and many other swamp-loving songbirds utilize such areas for nesting.

The marshes are also good habitat for mink, muskrat, and otter, which feed on the wide variety of fishes present in the creeks and backwaters. Sampling by the Wildlife Resources Commission showed excellent populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, white perch, and yellow perch which should provide exceptionally good fishing.

Evergreen Shrub Thickets

The evergreen shrub thickets comprise a large portion of the low, boggy areas of the park. The great variety of shrubs and small trees in these thickets supply food and shelter for many types of wildlife, one of the best known of which is the cottonmouth or water moccasin. Deer tracks and browse evidence may be seen throughout these areas, along with the tracks of bobcats and foxes. If there are any bear residing in the Goose Creek area at this time, the thickets would be their preferred hiding places. Songbirds of many types utilize these thickets for nesting and feeding, the Maryland yellowthroat, Carolina wren, and brown thrasher being among the most common. In the wetter thickets, the cottontail rabbit gives way to the less familiar marsh rabbit.

The variety of shrub species found in this habitat is great, but those that succeed in forming a canopy or overstory are less numerous, however. The loblolly bay is perhaps foremost in

this respect, often reaching a respectable 14" or more in diameter and attaining a height in excess of 40'. Black and tupelo gums are scattered through the shrub thickets, as are the sweet gum and bald cypress.

Of the many species forming the thick understory, none are as numerous as the wax myrtle. The gallberries, groundsel tree, red bay and the sparkleberry combine with many other species to form a dense tangle which is made worse by the presence of bamboo-briers and other greenbriers.

Despite the density of woody plants in the thickets, a diverse herbaceous flora is also present. Arrowheads and marsh pennywort are present in the bog along with such attractive ferns as the Virginia chainfern, royal fern, marsh fern, and cinnamon fern.

Swamp Forests

The swamp forests may be found in the interior low-lands of the Goose Creek area, as well as along the upper stretches of the creeks, wherever the water is fresh. Good stands of Cypress are found on Little Goose Creek and in the headwaters of Mallard Creek. In the latter area there are a few of the less common pond cypress, but the bald cypress is far more widespread. The tupelo, sweet gum, and red maple share the swamp edges with the cypresses. Tree-sized loblolly bays and shrubby black willows are particularly common in those interior swamps that appear to have been logged the most recently.

Wood ducks, green herons, and red-shouldered hawks utilize the swamp forest for nesting purposes, as do many songbirds. In addition to the more typical woodpeckers, the pileated and red-headed woodpeckers frequent this habitat in large numbers.

The waters around the swamp forests provide good fishing, the species caught including largemouth bass, bluegill and

perch. These waters are also the chosen habitats of such reptiles as the snapping turtle and the eastern cottonmouth. These forests also provide cover for raccoon and opossum, along with the deer which are present in practically every forest community.

Mature Pine Forests

The mature pines cover all the upland regions of the park that have not been recently disturbed by man. The loblolly pines of this area are truly impressive, being uniformly tall (100' or more), straight, well-spaced, and on the average about 2½' in diameter at breast height. The majestic nature of this forest is greatly heightened by the presence of great quantities of Spanish moss. Although generally more characteristic of swamp forests, in the Goose Creek area the air is apparently damp enough and the winds moderate enough that Spanish moss is at least as common among the Pines as among the cypresses.

Although pines dominate the area's uplands, many hardwoods are thriving in the semi-shade. Live oaks, water oaks, white oaks, southern red oaks, mockernut hickories, sweet gums, and other typical climax forest trees form a second canopy about 30-50' off the ground. Unless succession is interrupted, these trees will undoubtedly one day replace the pines.

Beneath this double canopy thrive many of the more shade-tolerant evergreen shrubs, especially red bay and wax myrtle. Such herbaceous plants as bracken fern, pipsissewa, and a host of species associated with old Pine and young hardwood forests form yet a fourth layer of greenery in the mature pine forests. Such diversity could not exist if the pine forests had a less open character. This is further evidenced by the fact that at least a half dozen species of the sun-loving blueberries and huckleberries are common on the forest floor. Particularly

attractive shrubs in the understory include the purple-fruited beautyberry, the sweet pepper bush, and a shrubby form of the flowering dogwood.

The wildlife in this forest type are typical of that found in most eastern North Carolina pine forests, and includes, for example, numerous deer, the great horned and screech owls, and large numbers of insects and treefrogs. Many birds typical of coastal forests are present in the pines, including the parula warbler, pine warbler, and Acadian flycatcher, along with the brown-headed nuthatch and the carolina wren.

Perhaps the best known inhabitant of the older pine stands is the red-cockaded woodpecker, a species included in the "Preliminary List of Endangered Plant and Animal Species in North Carolina" and the "United States List of Endangered Species." The endangered status of the woodpecker can be attributed to two major factors: the harvest of mature pine trees, with current emphasis on short rotation; and the requirement for mature, living pines for construction of nesting and roosting cavities. The Park has, as of last count, three existing colonies of the redcockaded, and a management plan for protection and preservation of the species is being developed, and will include locating and marking all existing cavity trees, establishing a boundary around these trees in which the habitat requirements of the birds will be provided, and ensuring that pines of sufficient size, age, etc. are preserved within the park for possible future use by the birds.

A substantial amount of land close to the park land is currently covered in another forest type composed of stands of pine. This forest community is composed of stands that are very young and dense, a majority of them probably no older than 15 or 20 years, and commonly called "pine plantations". This young pine forest is not as productive for wildlife as other

natural communities, due to the smaller number of food-supplying plants. However, its dense crown growth provides good nesting and roosting habitats for owls, gray squirrels, and many small birds.

One other natural vegetation type bears mentioning. Although Cane is present in many of the habitats in the Park, a narrow belt of cane thicket, or canebrake, may be observed along much of the contact line between the pine forest and the evergreen shrub thickets. This is an interesting habitat with many plant species and birds. It is also an extremely fire-prone habitat during dry weather, due to the dry nature of the cane itself. This is the preferred habitat for a snake which gets its name from the cane, the canebrake rattlesnake. It is joined in the surrounding forest by another species, the pygmy rattlesnake.

Clear-cut Regeneration Areas

These broad, open expanses are in most places about waste deep in young loblolly pines, live oaks, turkey oaks, red maples, and a hodgepodge of other young trees. The persimmon thrives in such environments. Many common roadside weeds and evergreen shrubs are sharing these areas, with broomsedge probably being the single most numerous plant species in the community.

Although such areas are generally not desired in a state park, the abundance of available foods make them popular places with the animals. Rabbits, quail, and deer are thriving, and the local red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks work the fields in search of mice. Songbirds such as the brown thrasher, towhee, and parula, pine and hooded warblers are numerous in the regeneration areas during the warmer months.



SITE ANALYSIS

PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

The primary physical criteria affecting planning decisions are drawn from a composite of natural resource limitations and existing cultural conditions. This method of site analysis is used to determine priorities for development or preservation and to establish site-specific management criteria.

Of primary importance is the distinction of areas on the basis of development suitability. A classification of "unsuitable" is determined in terms of areas requiring protection for the preservation of certain wildlife habitats as well as areas in which feasibility of development is questionable due to physical limitations. Such limiting physical conditions include the proliferation of lowland soil types, related vegetation, and surface water. Likewise, the protection of the lowland swamp forests, shrub thickets, and marshes is critical.

An important constraint to the park's planning is the existing road system on the site. The penetration of the site by roads determines, in conjunction with those land areas suitable for development, general site location criteria. Certainly, the possibility of constructing new roads is not negated, however, the utilization of existing road corridors is not only practical, it also carries substantially less physical impact than new road construction.

Where existing facilities or uses have been established, a further constraint is apparent. Depending on the scope of existing development, the constraint may be imposing not only physically but also in terms of the park's organization and program. Dinah's landing, for example, has been a boating and fishing access area historically and though other sites may be available for the same purpose, the precedent of changing its use would not be appropriate or practical.

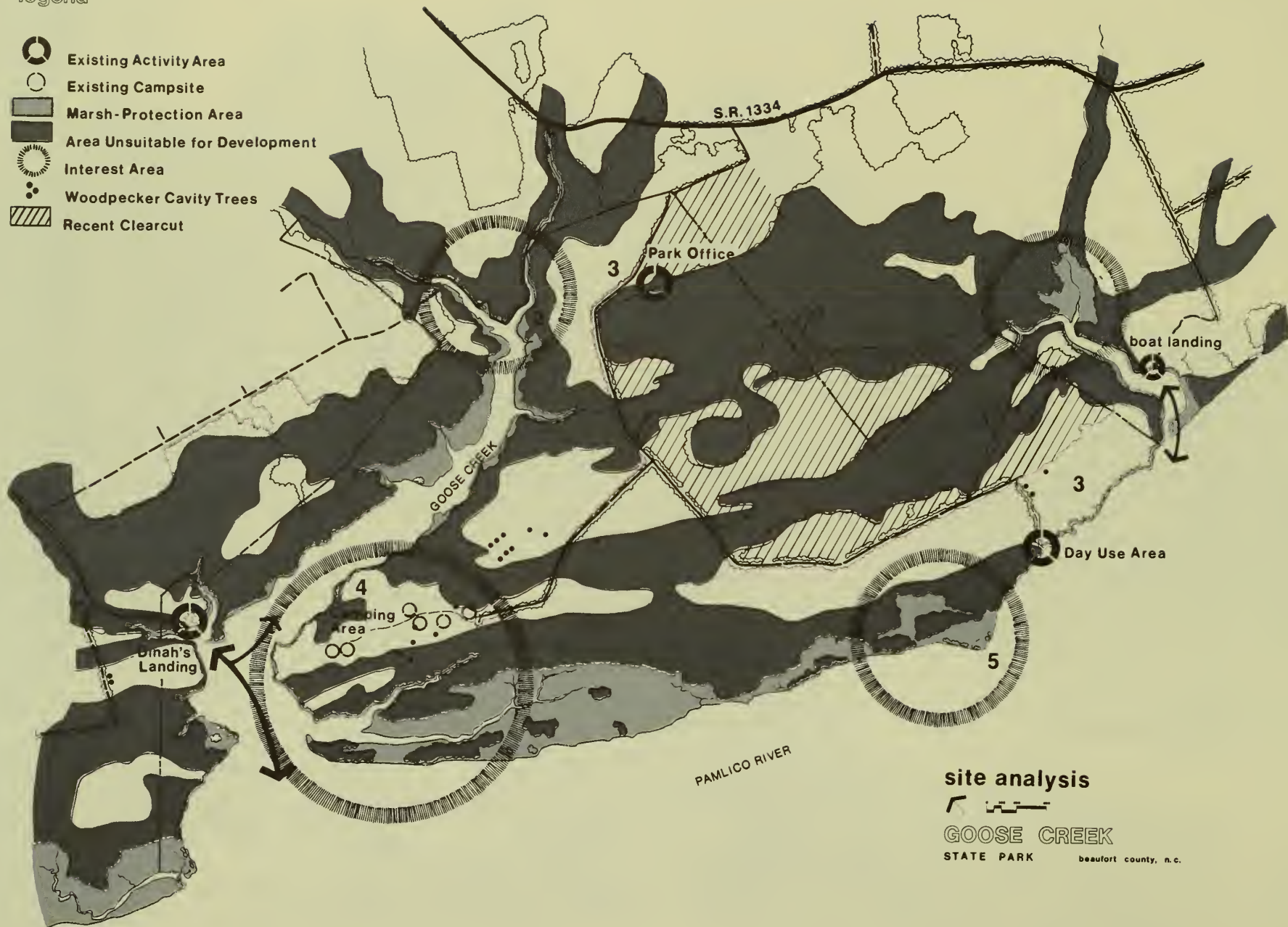
The "interest areas" pinpointed in the site analysis indicate the location of general sites which should be protected and have potential for the park's interpretive program. The waterways of Goose Creek and Mallard Creek are excellent sites to observe the transition zones from upland mixed hardwood and pine forest to swamp forest, to marshland. The area including Flatty's Creek also harbors a diversity of plant associations and a varied shoreline. A small hillock lies adjacent to the Goose Creek shore and, in comparison to the rest of the site, is an interesting topographic feature. Also included in this area is a sizable colony of red-cockaded woodpeckers. Seven cavity trees were found in this area — in the mature pine forest and on the edges of the swamp forest.

Ragged Point is a small protrusion of land — a headland — along the Pamlico Shore, barren and exposed to the coastal storms. Certainly the area is of interest due to its isolation, however, an abundance of animal and plant life can be found. Access is limited to approaches from the river by boat and, otherwise, a rather difficult hike along the shore from the day



legend

-  Existing Activity Area
-  Existing Campsite
-  Marsh-Protection Area
-  Area Unsuitable for Development
-  Interest Area
-  Woodpecker Cavity Trees
-  Recent Clearcut



site analysis



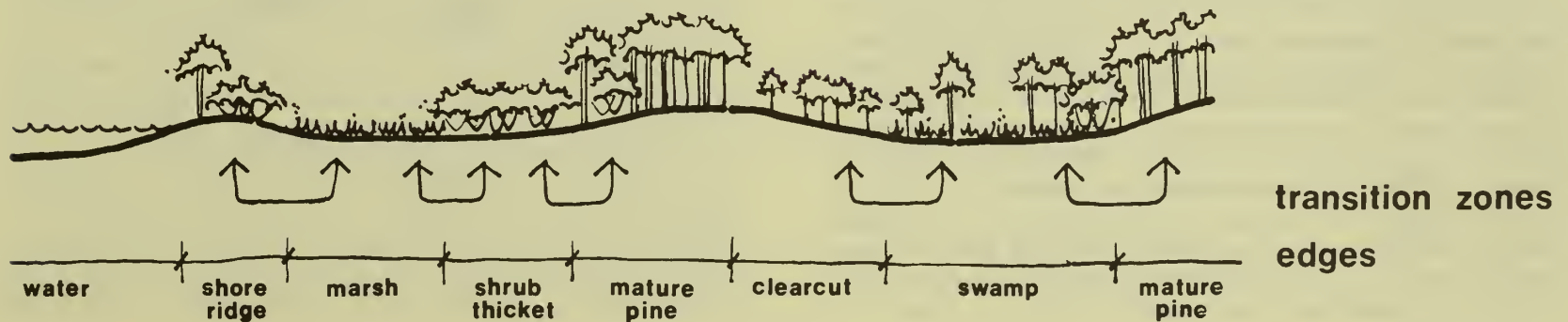
GOOSE CREEK

STATE PARK

beaufort county, n. c.

use area. A small ridge, similar to a coastal dune situation, runs the entire length of Ragged Point, and separates a narrow beach from the marshlands behind the ridge. The maintenance of the ridge and its vegetation is essential to the stability of the system as a whole. Its isolation should be preserved for this purpose and because it is an excellent spot for wildlife observation. Trails that are developed in the area should be on boardwalks not only in the marshes where access would otherwise be impossible but also in the areas where a lesser control on pedestrian movement might well result in increased erosion and soil compaction.

While the clearcut areas of the park's interior are undoubtedly an otherwise undesirable feature of the park, they have increased the availability of food for certain game species. The majority of this land should be managed for forest restoration, with the program aimed at returning the area to its "original" long leaf pine forest. Because these areas have been disturbed in the past, sites for new construction such as major buildings and parking lots are readily available. Although the clearcuts are as inhospitable environments as, say, the marshes they will nevertheless offer a varied component to the park's interpretive program.

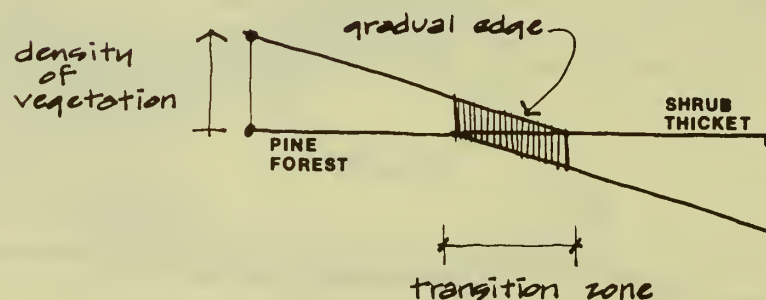
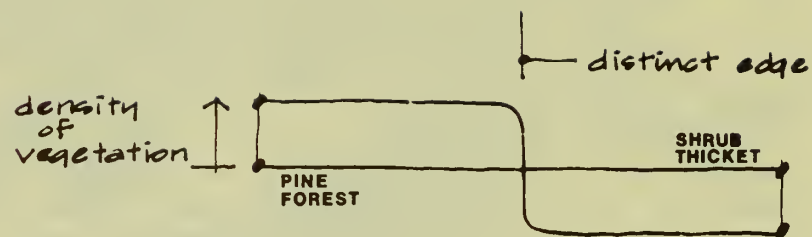


PERCEPTUAL STUDY

While natural landscape units may be defined in terms of prevailing land forms, vegetation and soils, and game habitat, landscape edges — the transition between distinct units — are most important in terms of what one sees. The character of a waterway is most distinct in its relation to its adjacent land form. Similarly, topographic change is perceived not by the elevation difference in itself but by its relationship to adjoining land forms. Landscape edges may be distinct or gradual depending on the interrelationship of topography, water, and related vegetation. The more distinct edges will be found where the juncture of topography and water is abrupt and where topographic changes are more pronounced.

It follows that the visual appearance of the Goose Creek area, essentially flat, is defined primarily at the juncture of the waterways and land forms and the juncture of the different plant associations. It is at these transition zones that variations in the park's landscape is most strongly observed. The maintenance of these edges is most important in preserving the park's visual appearance. New construction for buildings or trail boardwalks should be designed so that edge conditions are not obscured or fragmented.

The location of some park facilities and especially interpretive trails are determined, in part, by perceptual criteria. The best views on the site are those related to the water, particularly along the shoreline or to a near but opposite shore. These views are best if the alignment of the opposite shore is irregular. Interpretive trails are designed for both long and short distance hikes but, in both cases, are intended to provide as diverse an array of landscape units as possible. On the half-mile loop trails it is important that this diversity is contained within a relatively small area. The isolation of different edge situations in close proximity together helps to determine good locations for these trails and wildlife observation points.



PROGRAM

The program governing the use of Goose Creek State Park is based on the principles of the State Park System. The essence of these principles is the protection of unique natural features and the establishment of a program which will provide interpretation of the resource and complimentary recreation facilities.

At Goose Creek, there is one large area which contains every natural vegetational community and habitat typical of the surrounding area. This tract of land is approximately 375 acres in size and qualifies for inclusion in the State Natural Area program. The unique natural features surrounding Flatty's Creek and its marsh should be preserved; designation of this water and land as a State Natural Area would insure this preservation for future generations.

This is not the only feature of the park which deserves protection, however. Goose Creek State Park is possibly one of the best red-cockaded woodpecker habitats in North Carolina. This species of threatened wildlife deserves every action possible toward its preservation and enhancement, more than likely through guidelines similar to those which are being followed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The recreation program for the Park is based largely on preservation and protection of these natural features through interpretation of the resources. The amount of natural site information needs a well-developed educational process to explain the complexity of the environment. Toward this end, the program should contain a comprehensive interpretive program containing a network of trails throughout the Park.

Complementary recreation facilities such as hiking, camping, boating, picnicking and swimming, will have to be developed with a strong emphasis on protection of the natural resources of the Park. Facilities will not be provided without

first considering their impact on the vegetational communities and their faunal inhabitants, and in those areas which are extremely fragile, the natural feature will be the controlling factor over type, amount and density of use.

Carrying Capacities

The specific carrying capacities of the various types of recreation facilities have been adopted from several sources including the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Those recommendations have been re-evaluated in order to fulfill the objectives stated in the program study. A breakdown of the capacity figures applying to Goose Creek State Park follows:

Shoreline Swimming

700 feet of developed beach
4 people / 10 linear feet = 280 people
turnover rate 2 = 560 swimmers / day
1 bathhouse

Picnicking

family
½ of picnickers are swimmers = 1120 picnickers / day
4 people / table
turnover rate 2
140 tables @ 6 tables / acre = 24 acres

group

units (2) 60 person units
120 person maximum — 30 tables
turnover rate 1
(2) 150 person units
300 people maximum
2 1650 sq. ft. shelters (1 per unit)

Camping

wilderness camping

1 area — 8 sites — 8 acres

4 people / site

32 people maximum

tent camping

1 area — 24 sites — 24 acres

4 people / site

96 people maximum

tent and trailer camping

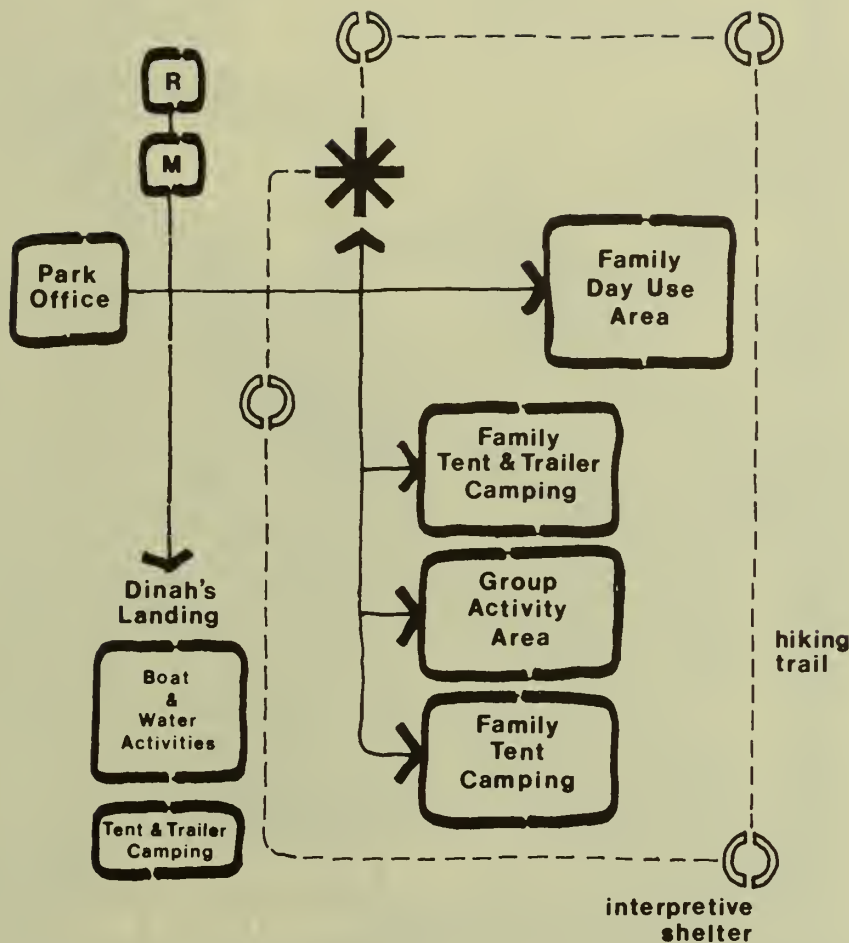
2 areas — 70 sites total — 20 acres

2 washhouses (1 per area)

4 people / site

280 people maximum





**conceptual
relationships of
park activities**



Interpretive Center

R - Personnel Residences

M - Maintenance Area

CONCEPT

The concept for the Park's development recognizes that, over the long term, public education about State Park principles and natural conditions in the park will be very desirable. This education process will begin at the Interpretive Center and will be expanded by the development of hiking/interpretive trails throughout the Park. The most significant points along these trails will be provided with an interpretive shelter, which will serve as an information dispenser and rest station.

The family day activities will be removed from the other day activities such as the group activity areas. This includes provision of a managed swimming beach in the family day use area for family use only; groups will be required to provide their own lifeguards and then swim in an area removed from the other swimmers.

Camping opportunities will be provided in a variety which will allow an individual to choose the camping type he desires. Tent camping, which requires over a one-mile hike, will be provided along with drive-in tent and trailer camping in two different locations, one on the main park land and the other at Dinah's Landing.

Dinah's Landing would also be the logical site for continuation of boat-oriented activities, since they are occurring there at this time. Any boat-oriented activities, such as pleasure boating and fishing, and secondary recreation, such as picnicking, dock-fishing, and camping by fishermen, would also occur close to the landing.



DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

MASTER PLAN

The Goose Creek State Park Master Plan is directed at satisfying two primary objectives — preserving and protecting the Park's unique natural condition and character, and establishing a recreation program which will provide an opportunity for public enjoyment of the Park's assets and wilderness condition. In developing such a plan, it is most important that the need to establish recreation facilities does not supercede the need to insure the integrity of the site. This can be done by conducting the implementation of the plan in phases, evaluating the impact of preceding phases prior to further development. More effective, however, is the limitation during the planning stages of the size and location of facilities in the proposed plan.

The Master Plan can be broken into six main use areas — administrative, interpretive, family day use, family overnight, group activity area, and a boat-water activity area at Dinah's Landing. The road and trail system will serve to tie these areas together and provide access to the Park's features.

A new entrance road from S.R. 1334 will provide easier access into the Park and tie into the existing road system. The plan is designed to utilize the existing road layout with the exception of minor realignments to accommodate new parking areas.

A visitor entering the Park would first come to the park office, which would provide all administrative service, visitor information, and distribution of camping permits. The park maintenance area would be located in close proximity to the office for efficient administration.

The Nature Interpretive Center is located at the intersection of the main park road and the road leading to the camping area. It is intended to be a focal point of the park, where information about the Park's natural resources will be made available and from which guided hikes or lectures will most likely emanate.

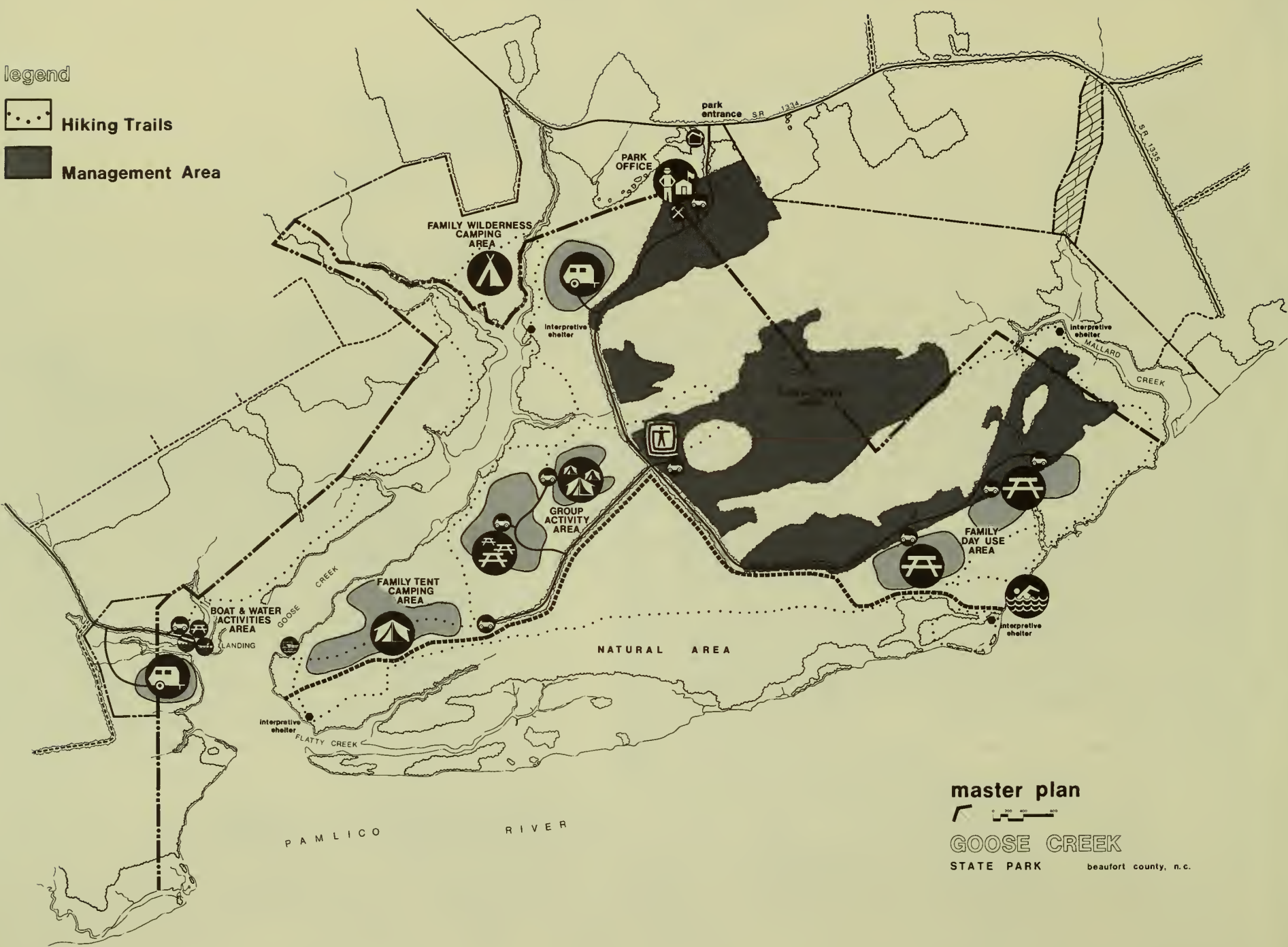
Smaller interpretive facilities, called shelters, will be located along the trails and several places in the Park which are important to the interpretive program. The intent of these shelters is to provide hikers with information concerning the immediate surroundings — plant communities along the trail, animals that might be seen in the area, and so forth.

Quite a large area bordering the Pamlico River, extending from Flatty's Creek to Ragged Point, was identified early in the analysis as an area which qualifies for inclusion in the State Natural Areas program. It is proposed that this area, about 375 acres, be designated as such and managed accordingly. The only development to occur within this area would be hiking trails and related interpretive shelters. The large open clearcut areas in the Park, covering some 228 acres, will be managed for extensive forest restoration and improvement of game habitat.

Continuing down the main park road from the Interpretive Center, the visitor will arrive at the family day use area. Parking areas will be provided along the existing road allowing visitors a short walk to picnic areas. It is proposed that about 700 feet along the river shore, extending from the existing day use area towards Ragged Point, be established as a public

legend

-  Hiking Trails
-  Management Area



master plan



GOOSE CREEK

STATE PARK beaufort county, n.c.

MASTER PLAN SYMBOLS KEY



PARK OFFICE



RANGER
RESIDENCE



MAINTENANCE
AREA



INTERPRETIVE
CENTER



INTERPRETIVE
SHELTER



PARKING



FAMILY
PICNICKING



SWIMMING



GROUP PICNICKING



BOAT RAMP



BOATING



TENT AND
TRAILER CAMPING



FAMILY TENT
CAMPING



FAMILY WILDERNESS
CAMPING



GROUP TENT
CAMPING



BOAT DOCK

swimming beach. The beach would be accessible from the picnic areas along a boardwalk type trail.

Turning west at the park road intersection (near the Interpretive Center), visitors will come to the group activity area. Intended for use exclusively by organized groups such as 4-H Club, church classes, and business outings, the group area will provide facilities for day camp use, picnicking, and tent camping. The group picnic areas are intended for larger, organized groups and will include two 1500 square foot shelters. The tent camping area will consist of two fifty-person camping areas and will be accessible from a nearby parking area. A 250 foot beach on Goose Creek will be established for the exclusive use of the group users.

Overnight camping facilities for families will be provided at four locations in the Park. Immediately west of the group activity area, at the end of the access road, a parking area will be established for campers to walk a short distance to a tent camping area consisting of twenty-four campsites. Similarly, a tent camping area is proposed for use by people seeking a wilderness situation on a site overlooking the east and west branch of Goose Creek.

A family tent and trailer camping area consisting of 40 campsites and a central washhouse will be located south of the park office, accessible from the main park road. Here, campers will be able to drive to their campsites. A tent and trailer campground will also be established adjacent to Dinah's Landing for use by boaters and fishermen.

Dinah's Landing is the site for expansion of boating and water related facilities. Two boat launch ramps will be provided and a boathouse built which will house rental canoes and rowboats. Additionally, a small dock for temporary mooring will be provided. A picnic area related to the boating facilities will be expanded to about one acre in size.

The Master Plan for Goose Creek State Park is intended as an optimum balance between recreational development and natural preservation. It represents a proposal for maximum development which, in its final form, could serve about 3600 people on a peak-use summer day.

INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

The vegetational and faunal diversity of the Goose Creek area is of such magnitude that an excellent opportunity exists for creating an interpretive program that is very wide in its scope. The ecology of the area is quite diverse as a result of the great number of interacting natural factors, including brackish water, very slight topographic relief, moderate climate with high humidity, periodic brush fires, and, of course, man. Exposure to these various factors at different levels of influence and periods of time has created a large number of distinct plant communities, with a resulting diversity of wildlife.

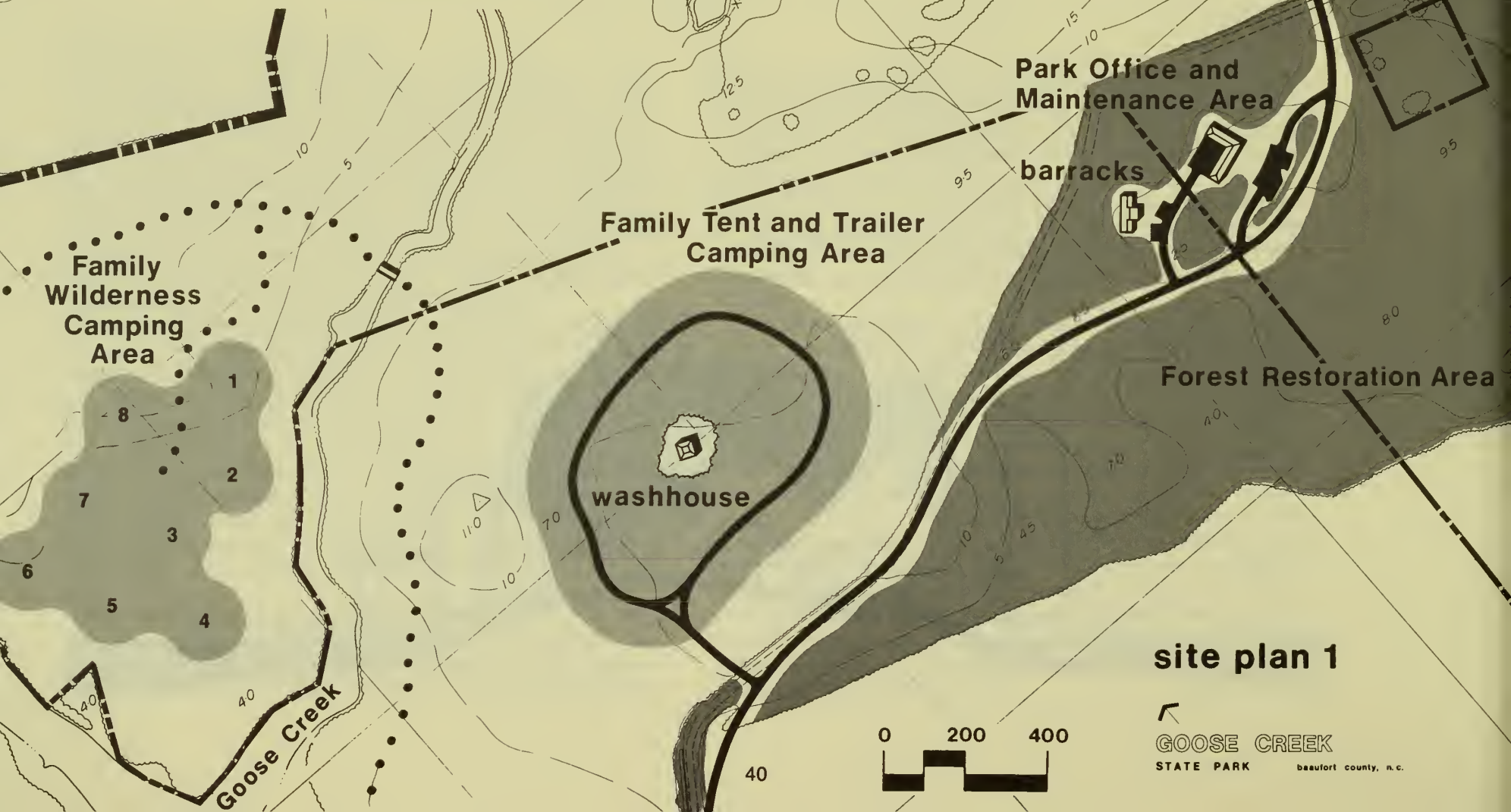
The interpretive program for the Park will be large and well-developed in order to effectively portray the wide range of information available. The Nature Interpretive Center will be one of the most important park facilities, having about 2,000 square feet of space providing a museum/display area, laboratories and work spaces, and an amphitheatre. Also included will be basic information about the natural features of the park and maps, pamphlets and additional explanatory material about the overall depth of the interpretive program, such as schedules and topics for the various guided and non-guided trail hikes, information about specific points of interest, and trail directions.

Over nine miles of hiking and interpretive trails will be provided in the Park, covering all of the different vegetation communities and linking them together in a fashion reflecting the wilderness character of the Park. At four locations along these

trails, interpretive shelters will be provided for the use of the hikers. These shelters will contain a small display space, seating, and probably first aid and fire-fighting equipment. The displays will be tailored to explain the interpretive features present within the immediate vicinity of the shelter, and each shelter will have its own specialized information package. Where the shelters are closely related to the water, other recreation uses will be allowed. For example, at those shelters accessible by boardwalk, fishing from the walkway will be allowed.

The interpretive trails will be developed on a loop system, always returning within fairly close proximity of the Interpretive Center. A short ½ mile loop trail which travels briefly through the vegetation communities close to the Interpretive Center will be the first increment in the trail system. Other trails, of varying length and subject matter, will branch out from this point. These trails will lead to the interest areas identified earlier, at which points the interpretive shelters will be located. It is the desire of the Master Plan to provide interpretive facilities to the park user which will allow the user to match the amount of time he is willing to spend with the type of information he desires to experience. It is hoped that, by allowing this freedom while controlling access to the fragile vegetation communities, the interpretive program will provide the necessary education of the natural features in the Park to generate a public desire for protection of those features.





SITE PLANS

Park Office and Maintenance Area

The Park Office will be the first facility that the park visitor will find on his entrance to the Park. It will be the main visitor information point, while also handling assignment and distribution of camping permits and reservation requests, and providing administrative services. A parking lot will be provided for 15 visitors and 4 buses, while 6 staff spaces will be separated from the visitors lot.

The timber has been cut in the area around the location of the park office, and the land has been re-seeded. This piece of land will be one of the designated parcels for forest restoration. The woodland edges around the park office and its parking area, the barracks, and the entrance road will be controlled to provide a varied visual experience to the park user. These edges will be strictly regulated to reduce the monotony of straight woods boundaries and to enhance the park atmosphere both away and close to the facilities themselves.

For ease of coordination, the office functions will be combined with the indoor maintenance functions. The maintenance facilities will include a workshop, garage, paint shed and dumpster along with a fuel pump and a paved workyard. Access to the maintenance yard will be by a road removed from the visitor parking lot and curving around to the rear of the office/maintenance building. This road passes by the park barracks building, which will provide rooms for some of the summer work force. Eight parking spaces will be provided at the barracks for use by the staff.

Residences

Three residences will be provided close to the park entrance, one will be in the existing Hawkins house, and the other two will be new buildings. All three residences will be served by one

driveway off of S.R. 1334, and will be on the high land characterized by the mature pine vegetation community. The residences were located in this area for ease of access, proximity to each other for protection purposes, and closeness to the main park entrance for protection and control.

Family Tent and Trailer Camping Area

A tent and trailer campground will be located further along the road from the park office, and will provide about 40 campsites in conjunction with a washhouse. These campsites will be pull-off type for camping trailer use. Each campsite will have a picnic table and grill, a 12' x 15' tent pad, a 50' pull-off for trailers, and water sources close to the campsites. The individual sites are placed approximately 100 feet apart along the road; the loop itself is buffered from the park road noise by over 200 feet of forest, and on the opposite side is no closer than 500 feet to Goose Creek. The campground will serve approximately 140 people, and will occupy about 10 acres of land.

Family Wilderness Camping

The wilderness camping area will require about a one mile hike along the hiking/interpretive trails for access. This hike is necessary in order to further the "wilderness" quality of the camping experience. Eight campsites will be developed on the piece of land between the two branches of Goose Creek, close to the northern border of the Park. The campsites will be separated from each other by a natural wooded buffer of at least 200 feet. The cluster of sites will be off of the hiking/interpretive trail for privacy and some element of protection, and will be provided with a centralized water supply and toilet facilities.



Goose Creek

interpretive shelter

bridge

Group Tent
Camping
Areas

Group Picnicking
Areas

Interpretive
Center

amphitheatre

Forest Restoration
Area

State
Natural Area

site plan 2

GOOSE CREEK

STATE PARK

beaufort county, n.c.



Interpretive Center

The Interpretive Center, close to the intersection of the main park road and the road leading to the tent camping area, will be the main facility for explaining both the cultural and natural histories of the Park, with an emphasis on the ecological systems at work there. The visitor will be able to decide for himself how much time he has available for exploration of the Park's features, and then follow the available programs which suit his needs.

The Interpretive Center is located close to the main park road and almost in the center of the Park because it will be one of the main focal points in the Park. Through it, and its related facilities, the natural character of the land and ecological systems will be portrayed. The building, its location, and the trail system linked to it, will comprise an integrated program designed specifically to acquaint the park visitor with the varied features which are typical of this Park.

As in the case of the park office, the Interpretive Center is located in one of the parts of the Park that have been cleared of timber. Therefore, the forest restoration program will be implemented on the tract. This gives the opportunity to control the visual aspects of the vegetation around the facility, providing a pleasant visual orientation from the road, and buffering or shielding elements which might not be visually desirable. The parking area, which will provide 100 visitor spaces and 8 bus spaces, will be shielded from the main park road by this vegetation, while open or cleared spaces will still allow views of the Interpretive Center.

Group Activity Area

The group activity areas are located off the road leading to the tent camping area, and will include facilities for group picnicking, swimming, open space gaming, and tent camping. The group picnic area will include tables for two 60 person groups, and shelters and tables for two 150 person groups. Located in close proximity to the picnic facilities will be approximately 8 acres of smaller separated open spaces for use by the groups for games, meetings, and so forth. Tables, grills, and water sources will be placed around the sites so that they will be convenient, yet provide as much privacy as possible for the individual groups. Parking will be available for 150 visitors and 10 buses. These parking facilities will be spaced apart to reduce their impacts.

For those groups which desire to swim in addition to their land-based activities, a length of shoreline along Goose Creek will be set aside for their use. This swimming area will only be open to those groups who can provide their own registered lifeguards while the swimming is in progress.

To accomodate those groups which will be staying overnight, two group tent camping areas will be available. Access to these campgrounds will be by continuing along the spur road serving the group activity area to the parking lot at the end of the road. Here, thirty visitor spaces and 4 bus spaces will be developed. Each group tent camp will have 12 or 13 tent sites in fairly close proximity to a circle for cooking and assembling; water and toilet facilities will also be nearby. Each camp will also be located around an open space of approximately 1 acre, but the two camps will be separated from each other for privacy.



Forest Restoration Area

Family Picnicking

40 units

40 units

30 units

30 units

bath house

swimming beach

Natural Area

interpretive shelter

site plan 3

GOOSE CREEK

STATE PARK

beaufort county, n.c.

1/2 mile loop trail

Family Day Use Area

The scope and extent of the design plan for the Family Day Use Area was based largely on the availability and carrying capacity of the proposed swimming beach. Although swimming will certainly be a very popular park activity, it will, by necessity, be limited in size and usability. While the river bottom in this area is very good for bathing, it is quite shallow — suitable for wading and swimming but not diving. Additionally, available “beach” is limited to two pockets of land along the shore being suitable for beach construction but having a maximum width of about 80 feet. Also important to the design was the need to insure the protection of the shoreline area from overuse.

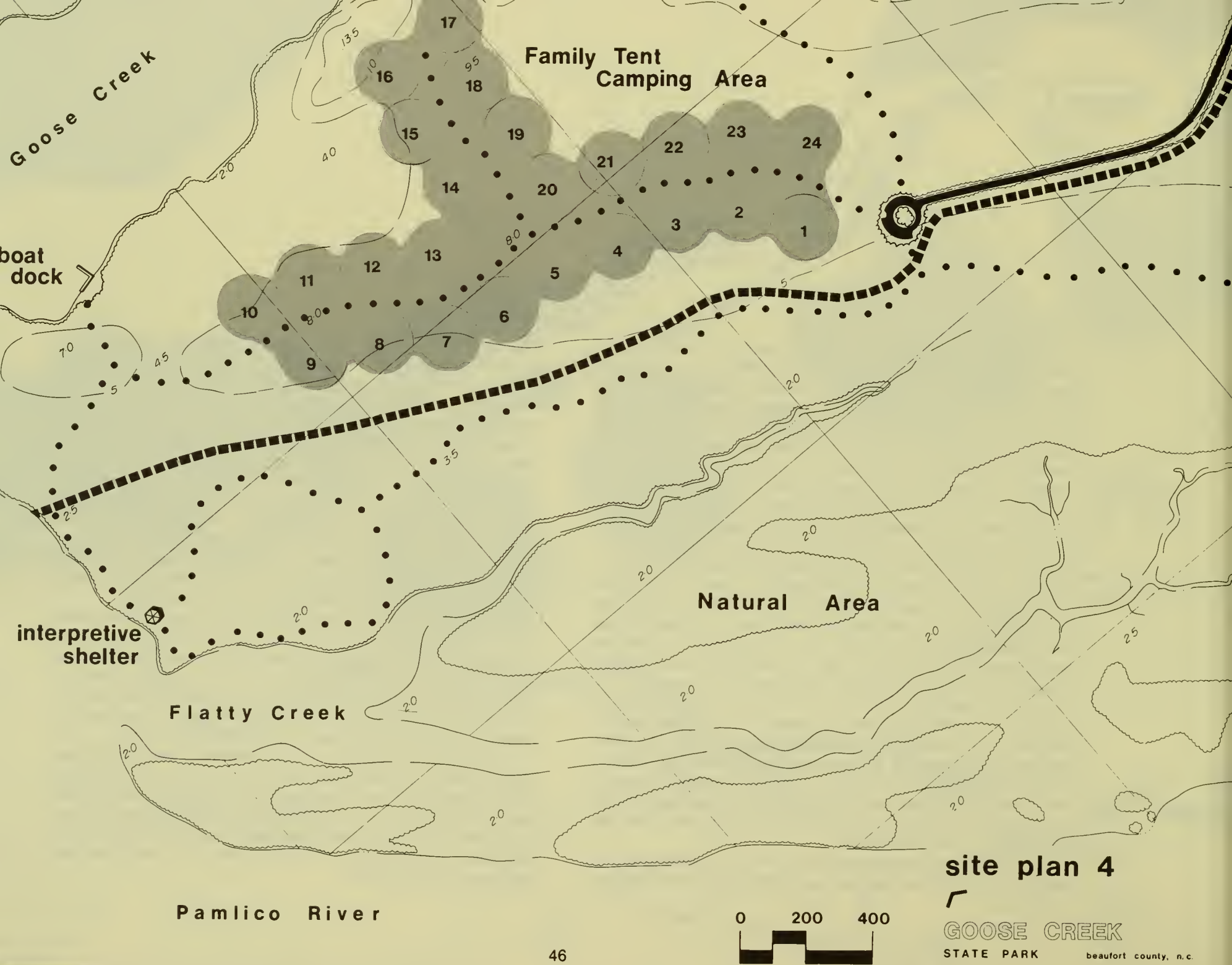
The design for the swimming area indicates the development of 700 linear feet of beach intended to serve a maximum of 560 people per day. The first beach area (the existing day use area) will be accessible from the existing trail which presently leads visitors from the road to the shore. The second beach area, lying about 200 feet west, will be accessible by a boardwalk constructed behind the shoreline ridge system. A single bathhouse changing room will be built on pilings developed in conjunction with the boardwalk. It is proposed that the bathhouse be a small facility providing only shelter, showers, and toilets and with no or limited storage facilities. Additionally, it is suggested that there be no fee for swimming or use of the changing facilities and that no full-time personnel be required with the exception of lifeguards. Vending machines can be provided at the bathhouse.

The size of the swimming beach determined the scope of family picnic facilities and parking which will serve both pic-

nicking and swimming areas. The parking lots are located at the edge of existing forest in the clearcut areas. The horizontal alignment of the park road has been altered slightly to provide variation to a visitor's approach to the area and allow the development of parking on the south side of the road without encroaching on forested areas. The parking areas are deliberately broken into four lots to reduce their overall impact. The family picnic area is proposed to contain two main access areas separated by a 400 foot buffer. The first area is composed of (2) four and a half acre picnic areas served by a single comfort station along the trail dividing the two areas. A one acre open space for casual sports is proposed to be opened in what is presently mature pine forest. A total of sixty picnic units (tabel and grill) will be provided in the entire area.

The second picnic area is larger containing (2) nine acre areas divided by the existing trail but each having its own comfort station. A two acre open space is proposed between the parking lots in an existing clearcut area. This picnic area will provide a total of eighty picnic units. The areas designated for picnicking are considered to be maximum in their extent, based on limitations imposed by the swimming area.

Access trails which lead from the parking areas through the picnic areas to the swimming beach are linked to the main trail system which will lead hikers to other areas of interest in the park. Additionally, it is proposed that an interpretive shelter be provided on the east side of Ragged Point on the boardwalk and that a ½ mile loop trail along the shore and marshes emanate from this point.



Family Tent Camping Area

At the end of the existing spur road where six tent camping sites are presently located, an expanded family tent camping area will be located. Due to the high quality of the site which could be undermined given more extensive vehicular access, it was determined the walk-in type of tent camping would be most appropriate.

A parking area accommodating twenty-five cars and two buses will be located at the end of the spur road. Campers will be required to hike 2100 feet to the furthest campsite.

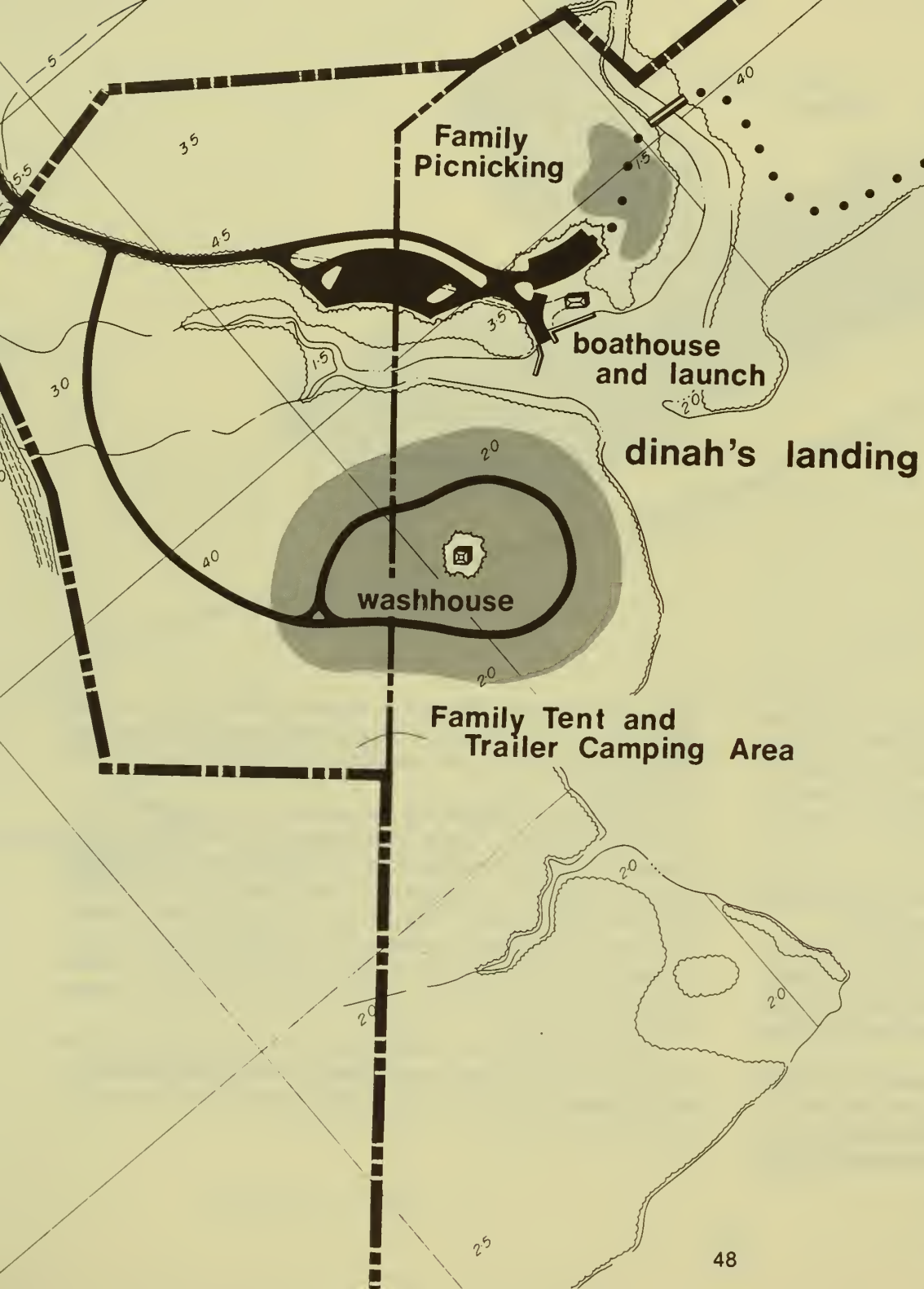
Given the isolation of the general area suitable for development, the main agent controlling the site layout is the existing trail leading from the present road terminus to Goose Creek. Additionally, two privies have been built adjacent to the existing trail.

Eighteen sites will be established along the existing trail with the remaining six campsites accessible from a new trail spur. A third privy will be required for the completed camping area. The existing trail will extend beyond the camping area to the

Goose Creek shore where a small boat dock will be located. Boat-in campers will use the dock as well as park staff who may utilize boats for patrol and maintenance purposes on the opposite shore.

An interpretive shelter will be located on the shoreline near the mouth of Flatty's Creek. This shelter is intended for the dispersal of information concerning ecological conditions at the water's edge and the ecosystems encompassed by the ½ mile loop trail. These include marsh, shrub thicket, cypress swamp, and the mature pine association which includes Spanish moss. Of particular interest are the numerous hummocks scattered throughout the marshlands where both swamp and upland species are found.

The main hiking trail leading west from the Family Day Use Area through the State Natural Area is linked to the parking lot which serves the Family Tent Camping Area and the interpretive loop trail.



site plan 5

GOOSE CREEK

STATE PARK

beaufort county, n.c.



Dinah's Landing

The design plan for the Dinah's Landing area includes the expansion of existing boating and picnicking facilities and the development of a tent and trailer campground. The main constraints on the site layout, after the delineation of usable land, are the limited lands within park ownership and the existing use of the landing. Of primary importance is securing control of access into the area for the protection of park facilities and the safety of overnight visitors.

Due to the ownership limitations in the area, additional land will be acquired south of Dinah's Landing in order that the camping area can be provided. The new acquisition will include about thirty acres east of Weyerhaeuser's existing access road but not include the road itself so that no access conflicts will occur over the use of the road. In the development of the tent and trailer camping area, a new loop road will be built off the existing road leading to the landing. This road will be approximately 2650 feet in length, two-way, and will cross about 500 feet of wetland including two small creeks.

The access road into Dinah's Landing will be realigned in order that a parking area for fifty car/trailer combinations can be developed. It is intended that boaters will drive directly to the boat ramp, launch and moor their boats, and return to the parking area with car and trailer. Visitors using the boat rental facilities or picnic area will park in the regular parking lot behind the boathouse. The main access road will be paved the entire length from where current state road maintenance ends, about a mile and a half.

Presently, normal State Park hours are not enforced at Dinah's Landing as it has been a traditional fishing access

where usage occurs from 4:00 am to 11:00 pm during peak seasons. While it would be undesirable to restrict its use to hours inappropriate to fishermen, greater control over the area will be necessary as the planning proposals are implemented. It is suggested that park hours be varied at Dinah's Landing in keeping with the fishing seasons. A gate should be erected on the main access road at the park boundary in order that campers may have free use of the facilities at the landing.

The campground construction, in particular, should be monitored closely and measures taken to stem siltation where the drainage ways join the more prominent tributary of Goose Creek.

The campground will be intended for use primarily by boating and fishing enthusiasts. Consisting of thirty sites, the campground is laid out in a loop with a central washhouse. Each campsite will have a radius of 100 feet. A dump station is located on the access road for use by campers when leaving the area.

Boating facilities will be expanded at Dinah's Landing to accommodate an additional boat launch ramp, short-term mooring, and a boat house for permanent storage. A concession for boat rentals will be operated from the boathouse, making available ten canoes and ten rowboats for visitor use. The existing launch ramp will be upgraded and widened to allow dual usage. A pier, maximum sixty feet in length, will be built in order that boaters may moor their boats temporarily while picnicking or as they retrieve their car/trailers when taking out. Ten picnic units will be provided in one acre about 100 yards north of the proposed boathouse.

	Developed Acreage	People Per Day	Parking
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM			
Park Office			
Information, administration, permits			
Parking 15 visitor 4 car/trailer/bus	2 acres		15-4
Maintenance Area			
Workshop, garage, fuel, workyard			
Barracks	2 acres		
Parking 8 staff			8
Interpretive Center			
Display, museum	3 acres		
Laboratories, workshops, offices			
Building — 2000 sq ft. +		300	
Amphitheatre			
Parking 100 visitor 8 bus 5 staff			105-8
Tent and Trailer Camping (Main Park)			
1 loop 40 campsites	10 acres	140	
1 washhouse			
Forest Restoration Areas			
Program for establishment of			
long-leaf pine, loblolly pine			
Enhancement of wildlife	228 acres		
State Natural Area			
Preservation and interpretive uses	375 acres		

	Developed Acreage	People Per Day	Parking
Group Activity Area			
Group Picnic Area			
(2) 60 person areas 1 acre	2 acres	120	
16 tables/acre			
15 tables/group			
open space 1 acre	2 acres		
parking 25 visitor 2 bus			50-4
(2) 150 person areas 3 acres	6 acres	300	
shelter 30' x 50'			
1500 sq. ft.			
open space 2 acres	4 acres		
parking 50 visitor 3 bus			100-6
Swimming Beach			
250 linear feet			
Lifeguards provided by groups			
Group Tent Camping Area			
(2) 50 person group			
4 people/site 8 sites/acre			
2 acres/group	4 acres		
25 sites			
open space 1 acre	2 acres		
parking 15 visitor 2 bus			30-4
Tent Camping Area			
4 people/site 1 site/acre			
24 sites total	24 acres	96	
dock and mooring for 5 boats			
parking 25 visitor 2 bus			25-2

	Developed Acreage	People Per Day	Parking
Family Day Use Area			
Family Picnicking			
1/2 of picnickers are swimmers			
560 picnickers @ 2 turnovers		1120/day	
4 people/table 6 tables/acre			
140 tables	24 acres		
open space 3 acres	3 acres		
parking 1 space/table			140-6
Swimming Beach			
700 linear feet 4 people/10 linear		280	
feet 2 turnovers		560 swim day	
developed beach 1 acre	1 acre		
(1) bathhouse			
Boat/Water Activities Area (Dinah's Landing)			
Picnicking			
4 people/table 10 tables/acre	1 acre	40	10
Boating Facilities			
2 launch ramps			
Dock 60 feet long			
Parking 50 car & trailer spaces	2 acres	150	50 c&t
Boat Rental Concession			
Boathouse			
10 canoes, 10 rowboats			
Parking 20 visitor 2 staff		40	22

	Developed Acreage	People Per Day	Parking
Tent and Trailer Camping (Dinah's Landing)			
1 loop 30 campsites			
1 washhouse	8 acres	100	
Wilderness Camping Area			
8 sites 4 people/site			
1 site/acre	8 acres	32	
Interpretive Trails			
49,000 linear feet 9.3 miles			
(4) interpretive shelters			
Roads			
new construction	13,760 linear feet 2.6 miles		
paving existing roadbeds	13,400 linear feet 2.5 miles		
Optimum day/overnight users:	approximately 3300/peak		
	use day		
Use areas total acreage: 108			



MANAGEMENT PLAN

SERVICES TO PARK USERS

Programs which have been established and are currently practiced in other state parks, particularly those for visitor protection and law enforcement, must be emphasized at Goose Creek State Park. The legal authority vested in park personnel stands as an effective means of controlling misuse of the park and unwanted encroachment upon its land.

The patrol of the park by personnel should be conducted systematically to include not only designated use areas and roads, but also the various hiking trails. Park boundaries should be kept well-marked and patrolled regularly to guard against encroachment, the development of new trails, unwanted uses, and so forth. The mobile units used for this patrolling should be radio equipped, as should the park office. A good working relationship with local law enforcement agencies should be actively pursued.

A fire control plan should be developed with the assistance of the North Carolina Forest Service. This plan should utilize existing roads, paths, trails and easements which are available to establish a unified fire fighting system. Fire-fighting equipment should be stored at critical points around the park so that it will be readily accessible to both park staff and visitors in an emergency.

A well-designed and up-to-date information service for park visitors is essential. Visitors should be well-oriented to the location of park facilities, trails, features and the programs which are available. In addition, through the design and location of information facilities, visitors should be acquainted with park regulations and philosophy.

Facilities providing the visitor with an orientation to the park plan and information services will be provided both in the park office and at the Interpretive Center, with supplementary information being available at the various use areas. Trail booklets will be available showing the hiking and interpretive trails. These booklets and pamphlets should stress the delicate qualities of the various plants found along the trails, and should point out that collecting or molesting any of the flora and fauna in the park is strictly prohibited.

PARK CHARACTER

The isolated and serene quality characteristic of the Goose Creek landscape is basic to the nature of the Park and must be maintained. Perhaps more important than visual conditions in the Park is the possible impact that extraneous noise could have. The flat topography and extensive waterways are conducive to magnifying and carrying noises where they might otherwise be contained by topographic change. It may be found that with the implementation of the proposed development noise levels do indeed encroach the "quiet zones" of the Park. This being the case, the building program must be limited in the interest of the desired park character.

Visually, it is important that physical development such as buildings be harmonious in scale with their surroundings. Inasmuch as there is so little topographic variation across the site, it is likely that buildings taller than one-story will be undesirable. Architectural simplicity should be an objective in the appearance of new buildings in the park.

PHASING

Interim Facilities

Land Acquisition — 1208.60 acres (no new acquisition)

1. Park Control
 - office (temporary)
 - gate on entrance road
2. Maintenance Area (temporary)
3. Day Use Area
 - picnicking
 - swimming
4. Tent Camping Area
 - 6 sites with table, grill, trashcan
 - 2 privies
5. Boat/Water Activities Area (Dinah's Landing)

Phase I

Land Acquisition — 153.21 acres Priority I

1. Park Office and Maintenance Area (permanent)
2. Pave main park roads
3. Designate State Natural Area
4. Begin development of Interpretive Center (1000 sq. ft. facility)
5. Establish interpretive trails and (3) shelters
6. Forest Restoration Areas on park property
7. Family Day Use Area
 - 40 picnic tables and parking
 - swimming beach (400 ft.)
 - bathhouse
 - boardwalk construction (800 ft.)
6. Tent Camping Area
 - 24 sites
 - 3 privies total
7. Group Picnic Area
 - (2) 60 person groups
8. Group Tent Camping Area
 - (1) 50 person group
9. Tent and Trailer Camping (Main Park)
 - camping loop 20 sites developed
 - washhouse
 - pave camping loop
10. Boat/Water Activity Area (Dinah's Landing)
 - upgrade existing boat launch ramp
 - replace existing docking facilities

Phase II

Land Acquisition — 290.83 acres Priority II

1. Forest Restoration Areas completed
2. Interpretive Center completion (2000 sq. ft. approx.)
amphitheatre
complete interpretive trails and shelters (4 total)
3. Family Day Use Area
40 additional picnic tables and parking
swimming beach expanded to 700 feet
4. Wilderness Camping Area
8 sites
5. Tent Camping Area
boat dock (5 boats)
6. Group Picnic Area
(1) 150 person shelter and tables
7. Group Tent Camping Area
(1) additional 50 person group (2 total)
8. Tent and Trailer Camping (Main Park)
20 additional sites (40 total)
9. Boat/Water Activity Area (Dinah's Landing)
pave access road and parking
(1) additional boat launch ramp (2 total)
boat/canoe rental concession building

Phase III

Land Acquisition — 30 acres Priority III

1. Family Day Use Area
60 additional picnic tables and parking (as needed)
2. Tent and Trailer Camping (Dinah's Landing)
camping loop 30 sites
washhouse
pave access road and loop
3. Group Picnic Area
(1) additional 150 person shelter and tables

PERSONNEL STAFFING

PHASE I

Permanent	Park Superintendent Park Ranger
Seasonal	Park Attendant (6 month) Typist Clerk I Chief Lifeguard Lifeguards Bathhouse Manager Park Naturalist Labor Support (as needed)

PHASE II

Permanent	Naturalist Park Ranger II Typist Clerk II Maintenance Mechanic II General Utility Man
Seasonal	Park Attendant (3 month) 2 Lifeguards Bathhouse Operator Concession Manager 2 Concession Clerks 2 Dock Attendants Labor Support (as needed)

PHASE III

	Labor Support (as needed)
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STATE NATURAL AREA

As part of the Naturalist's report to the Master Planning Unit, it was suggested that the area extending from Ragged Point to the mouth of Goose Creek, and inland to the periphery roads, should be designated a State Natural Area. Encompassing about 375 acres, the area includes the single largest natural area of high quality in the Park. The area contains a variety of habitats and includes the marshlands of Flatty's Creek and a sizeable section of one of the best stands of mature Loblolly Pine.

The "State Natural Area" designation is an official title of the Division of Parks and Recreation given areas included in the Natural Area System. The purpose of the North Carolina State Parks Natural Areas System is to:

1. Preserve and protect natural areas of scientific, aesthetic, or geologic value not only for the knowledge and inspiration of the present generation; but, also for generations to come.
2. Portray and interpret plant and animal life, geology, and all other natural features and processes in the various Natural Areas.

The basic principle underlying the management of Natural Areas is that of preservation with any maintenance or improvements performed aimed at insuring the protection of the area. No agricultural operations of any kind are permitted in State Natural Areas; no buildings will be constructed except those required for protection, maintenance, and interpretation; no roads will be built except those necessary for protection and maintenance. Hiking and interpretive trails and their related development such as interpretive shelters or observation platforms are the only types of improvements in Natural Areas directly intended for visitor use.

The procedure for establishing Natural Areas involves, first, a proposal from the Division of Parks and Recreation to the Natural Areas Advisory Commission. The Advisory Commission, having no statutory power itself, will make a recommendation — either positively or negatively — with respect to the Division's proposal. Given the approval of the Advisory Commission, the recommendation is forwarded to the Secretary of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources for official designation.

FOREST RESTORATION AREA

A detailed resource management plan will be developed for Goose Creek State Park following the adoption of the Master Plan. Of particular importance is the need to improve the habitat of the red-cockaded woodpecker. A nest-tree count, carried out in October, 1975, resulted in the identification of twenty cavity trees in the Park, in three primary areas. The tree count, however, was only preliminary and did not cover some areas on the site which are likely habitats for the red-cockaded. It is anticipated, therefore, that a larger population exists than that determined by the first count.

All of the sites having cavity trees occupy upland, mature pine forest situations or edges and are in a poor condition for the maintenance of the woodpecker habitat. The poor site conditions are a result of several factors including the proliferation and damage of southern pine beetle, and the fact that understory vegetation is being allowed to develop around the cavity tree. Also, potential cavity trees are being overtaken by the hardwood understory.

The habitat of the red-cockaded woodpecker consists of mature pine forest with a minimum of dense understory. The

presence of humans is not necessarily detrimental to the quality of the habitat. General recommendations for the improvement of the woodpecker habitat includes the clearing of understory vegetation within a 50' radius of each existing cavity tree and prescribed burns over general management areas for the first two or three years. Following the initial burn sequence, controlled burns should occur periodically, every two or three years.

A majority of the clearcut land in the Park's interior will be managed for reforestation. It has been suggested that longleaf pine species be utilized in upland situations of the Forest Restoration Area. Due to the fact that the longleaf is better suited to the sandy soil conditions of the upland situations than the loblolly species, it is projected that a mature longleaf pine stand will provide a more permanent and pest resistant forest. A primary objective is to manage the forest restoration for ultimate red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. Obviously, an important part of the resource management plan will be the development of a detailed program for the Forest Restoration Area. While the longleaf pine species will represent the dominant forest type, it is also important that the area become a useful component of the interpretive program. Some areas should be maintained or rotated to demonstrate successional stages of forest development. Additionally, reforestation which occurs along the park roads should have a varied edge so as to reduce the monotony of a continuous belt of homogeneous trees.



UTILITIES

Water and sewer service to facilities in the main park area will be provided by separate systems for each of the main use areas. The Park Office and Maintenance Area, Tent and Trailer Camping Area, Interpretive Center, Group Picnicking Area, and Family Picnicking Area will all be served by separate subsurface disposal systems. Also, each will obtain their water supply from individual underground wells. The relationship between the location of comfort stations and open space in both group and family picnic areas is such that designated open spaces can be utilized for septic tank fields so that no additional forest clearing is necessary.

Sewage disposal for the bathhouse at the public swimming beach will necessitate pumping to soils suitable for nitrification. Several alternative methods exist for handling sewerage in the Family Day Use Area depending on detailed cost-benefit studies which will be carried out at a later date. It may prove desirable to develop a package sewer disposal system for the area linking the comfort stations and bathhouse to a central septic tank/nitrification field, rather than develop separate septic systems for each picnic area. In any case, it is undesirable that new open

spaces be created in addition to those designated in the plan. As regards pumping across marshy areas, pipes can be run in conjunction with the boardwalks. Locating the pipes on the bottom side of the walkways will alleviate any visual intrusion.

In the Tent Camping Area, three individual pit privies will be provided (two are existing) and water will be supplied by hand pumps utilizing the ground water supply. Similarly, sewage disposal for the Wilderness Camping Area will be by pit privy and water supply, if any, by a hand pump. The Tent and Trailer Camping Area and boathouse at Dinah's Landing will require separate septic systems and drilled wells for water supply.

Carolina Power and Light Company has provided above-ground lines for the temporary park office. It is recommended that the permanent electrical distribution system for the whole of the park be a complete underground installation. All transformers and switching facilities should be contained in low-profile enclosures, mounted above ground for easy access and maintenance. Underground cable connections, terminations or taps should be done in manholes.

LAND ACQUISITION

The land currently in the ownership of the State, 1,208.60 acres, includes most of the area where park facilities will be developed according the Master plan. Where this is not the case and, otherwise, for the purpose of park protection and control and additional 474.04 acres is proposed for acquisition over three phases. The total acreage proposed for Goose Creek State Park is 1,682.64 acres.

First in priority for acquisition is the property between the current park boundary and the access road, s.r. 1333. This area includes 153.21 acres and is presently held by three private owners. As this property was earmarked for acquisition prior to the master plan study beginning, the Division of Parks and Recreation has already officially requested that appraisals of the three properties be initiated by the Real Property Section, N.C. Department of Administration. Acquisition of this land will enable the construction of a permanent park entrance and improved control over the main park area as a whole.

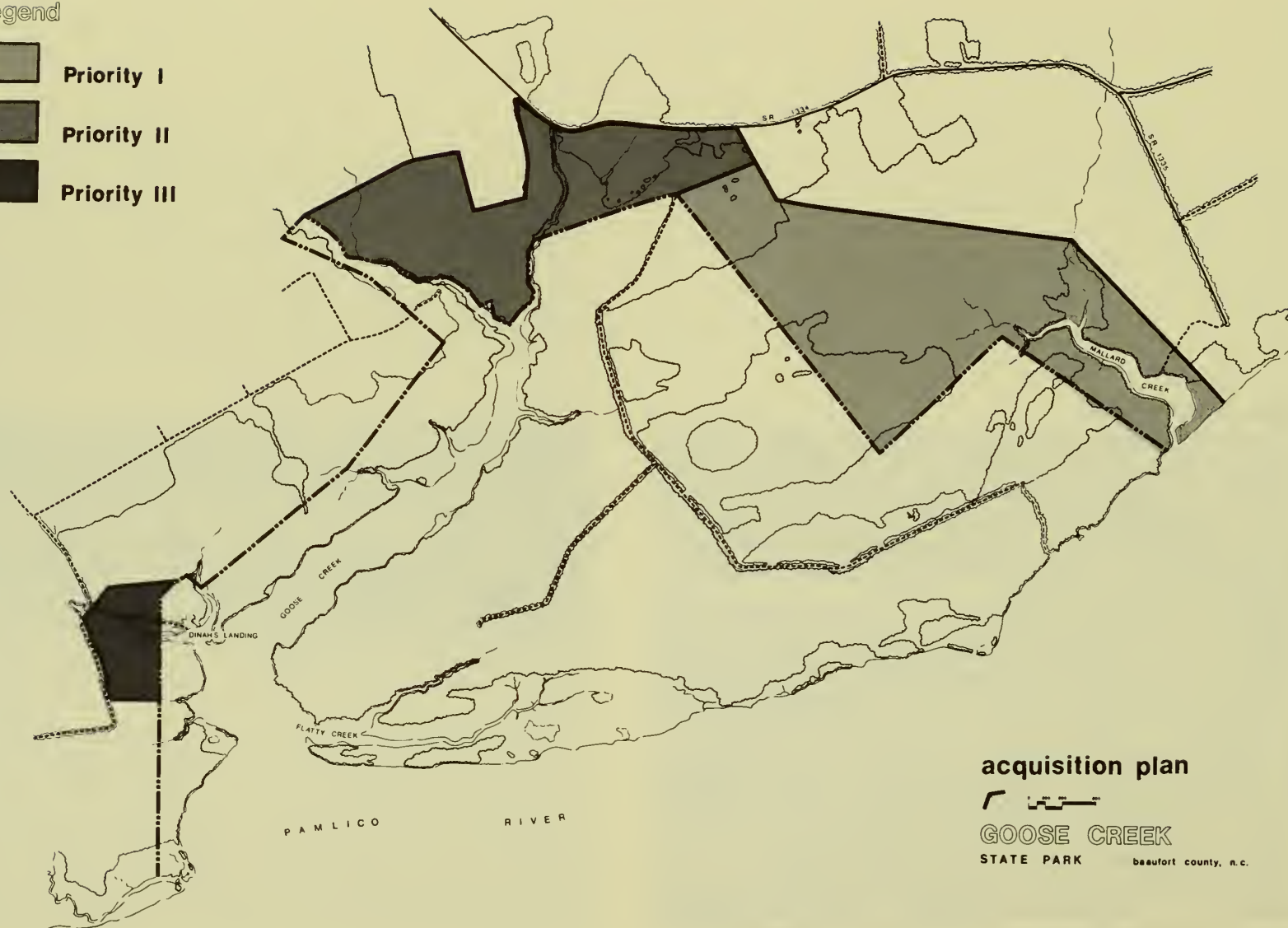
Second priority for land acquisition is 290.83 acres currently owned by the Weyerhaeuser Company. This land includes primarily wetlands adjacent to the present boundary on the

northeast side of the Park. Of primary importance to the insured protection of Mallard Creek, the additional land will also enable the interpretive program to extend into the marshes and shoreline of the creek.

The acquisition of 30.00 acres immediately south of Dinah's Landing is third priority. This land, also in the ownership of Weyerhaeuser Company, is necessary for the development of the tent and trailer camping area relating to the Landing.

legend

-  Priority I
-  Priority II
-  Priority III



acquisition plan



GOOSE CREEK

STATE PARK

beaufort county, n.c.

APPENDIX "A"

Soils Matrix

Soil Name	Buildings with Septic Tanks	Roads and Streets	Campsites	Picnic Areas
Capers soils (Marshland)	Severe- Flooding; Wetness	Severe- Flooding; Wetness	Severe- Flooding; Wetness	Severe- Flooding; Wetness
Conetoe loamy sand	Slight	Moderate- too sandy, low traffic supporting capacity	Moderate- too sandy, susceptible to soil blowing	Moderate- too sandy, susceptible to soil blowing
Pactolus loamy sand	Moderate- seasonal high water table	Moderate- too sandy, low traffic supporting capacity	Moderate- too sandy; seasonal high water table	Moderate- too sandy; seasonal high water table
Tarboro loamy sand	Sight*	Moderate- too sandy, low traffic supporting capacity	Moderate- too sandy, susceptible to soil blowing	Moderate- too sandy, susceptible to soil blowing
Johnson mucky loam	Severe- Flooding; Wetness	Severe- Flooding; Wetness	Severe- Flooding; Wetness	Severe- Flooding; Wetness
Rutlege loamy sand	Severe- Flooding; seasonal high water table	Severe- Flooding; seasonal high water table	Severe- Flooding; seasonal high water table	Severe- Flooding; seasonal high water table

*Low filtering action; nearby water supply may be contaminated.

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